■ ACROSS / A21
400 years of foreign missionary leadership end in Negros parish

■ LIFESTYLE / D1
Interview with PCSO chair: Charity begins with him

■ GLOBAL PINOY / A28
Home for Filipino workers forced to come home

Kayong malakas magtext at tumawag, kanino kayo malakas?
turn to Section I

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, April 16, 2006 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 127 P18 website: www.inq7.net

## Gonzalez's Lenten reflection: Pimentel

By Armand N. Nocum

EVERYONE WAS GENERALLY serious and was in a contemplative mood during President Macapagal-Arroyo's Holy Week retreat in Baguio City, except for Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez, in a telephone

GONZALEZ'S/ A10

# Arroyo commutes all death sentences

## Declaration coincides with Easter

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WITH THE RESURRECTION OF Christ as a backdrop, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced that all death row convicts would be spared and the maximum penalty commuted to life imprisonment.

"As we celebrate and rejoice in Jesus' resurrection, I wish to announce that we are changing our policy on those who have been imposed the death penalty. We are reducing their penalty to life imprisonment," the President said in an Easter message released by Malacañang.

She added: "Anyone who falls and makes mistakes has a chance to stand up and correct the wrong he has committed.

"Jesus suffered for the redemption of mankind from sin and we should have hope in our hearts in suffering and always stand up strong when we fall."

The President, however, did not say why she was making this decision now.

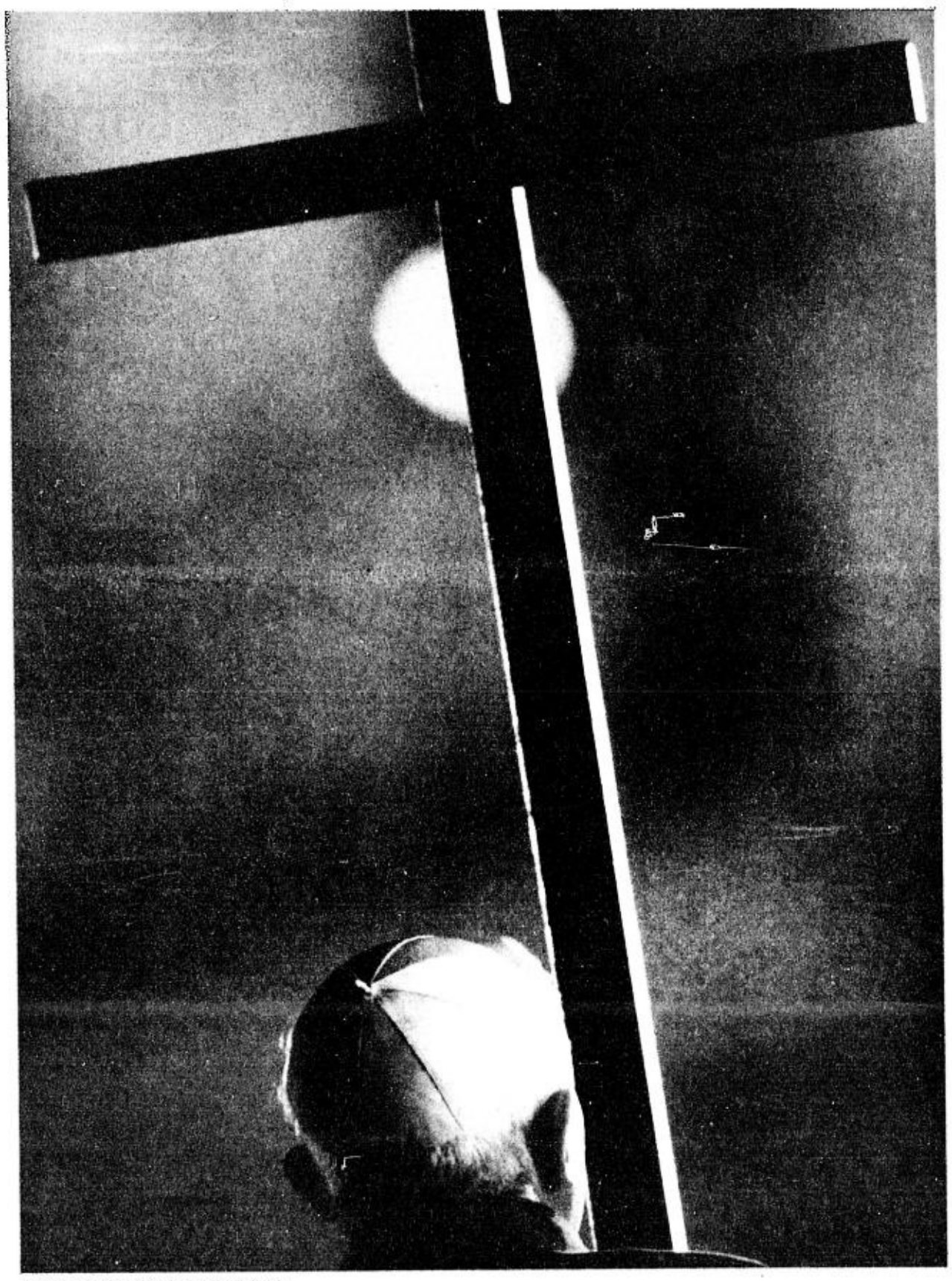
Malacañang issued a statement saying the new policy would benefit roughly 1,000 convicts on death row. Officials did not respond to calls from the INQUIRER.

Henry Chua, father of a boy who was kidnapped and held by his abductors on Dec. 2-30, 2003, said he was "disappointed" by Ms Arroyo's announcement.

"It seems the President cares for the criminals' rights more than she does for the victims' rights," Chua said.

As of December 2005, there were 1,205

ARROYO/ A17



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
Pope Benedict XVI carries the cross as he presides over the Stations of the Cross ceremony at Rome's Colosseum on Good Friday, in commemorating the crucifixion of Christ. AFP

## Magdalo officers pursue studies under detention

By Nikko Dizon

THE THREE YOUNG MEN SWEATED IT OUT at their final exams just before the school year recently closed, except that they were not the usual graduate students trying to make the grade at the University of the Philippines Open University.

They were among 11 junior officers of the Philippine Air Force detained in connection with the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny and belonged to the so-called Magdalo group that staged the failed coup attempt.

First Lt. Francisco Ashley Acedillo was working on his master's degree in Development Communication, 2nd Lt. Archie Grande was taking MA in Research and Development Management, and 2nd Lt. Adrian Alvarino was doing MA in Public Management.

The other Air Force officers detained following the assault on the Oakwood complex in Makati City were into undergraduate courses and nonformal programs—until Internet access was denied them in the wake of another coup attempt in February.

Around 300 soldiers were involved in the Oakwood mutiny, but cases against most of them had either been cleared or dropped, except for 31 junior officers from various Armed Forces units who faced coup charges.

For these 11 officers who had been study-

MAGDALO/ A18

## Missionary leader shows RP global religious clout

By Lito B. Zulueta

ERNIE SARMIENTO

**PERNIA: First non-European, non-American to be elected superior of the Society of the Divine Word.**

FR. ANTONIO PERnia, the superior of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), one of the largest missionary orders in the Catholic Church, personifies the heightened global presence of the Filipino religious.

According to Vatican correspondent and author John Allen, Pernia is "the first Asian ever to be elected superior of an international religious order in the Catholic Church."

Pernia not only represents the widening presence of Filipinos' international missionary work. He also embodies the increasing global complexion of the Church to which Filipinos and other Asians have made important contributions.

Based in Rome where the SVD headquarters is located, Pernia is easily one of the top Asian religious functionaries in the Holy See. The SVD headquarters at the Via dei Verbiti is a palatial Italian villa obscured by a huge garden in front accessible through a security gate.

The building also houses several offices not exactly connected with the order, including the Service for Documentation and Research,

MISSIONARY/ A17

## RP nun top communicator of congregation

By Lito B. Zulueta

SR. REGINA KUIZON OF THE RELIGIOUS OF the Good Shepherd (RGS) is barely into her forties but she handles the communication needs of a worldwide religious congregation for women with missions in over 60 countries.

The Filipino nun is a former journalist and photographer. She earned her spurs in and out of journalism school at the University of Santo Tomas under the tutelage of the late journalist and teacher Felix Bautista, who was the late Jaime Cardinal Sin's political adviser and speechwriter.

Toward the late 1980s, already deep in professional work, Kuizon realized she had a religious vocation, which was perhaps prefigured when she met Pope John Paul II in Rome in the early 1980s during a student tour and got the added benefit of having the Pope, perhaps touched by her youth and excitement, cupping her cheeks with his hands and blessing her.

She joined the Good Shepherd sisters, a congregation founded in the mid-19th century by the French St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier.

The Good Shepherd nuns are well known to Filipinos for their convent in Baguio City that makes those delicious and fast-selling strawberry and *ube* jams, the proceeds of which go to various charities and ministries.

What many people do not know is that the RGS is a worldwide order tending to sick poor

RP NUN/ A10

## *'This is the best time to be a Filipino'*

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM? What deep source brought forth this amazing phenomenon that shows in concrete what love and caring for one another truly means?

They call it GK (for Gawad Kalinga) 777. Their target: 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years—and they're getting there fast.

The Couples for Christ's GK community housing program for the very poor in this country and abroad has amazed and baffled even the most skeptical and cynical.

Antonio "Tony" Meloto, the name, face and voice behind the GK phenomenon, is himself surprised at what love has wrought.

Much has been written about the GK phenomenon, in which so many Filipinos here and abroad are now personally involved. Even foreigners leave their homelands to come and contribute their time and talent.

Both individuals and institutions have pledged their faith as well as their money in the revolutionary enterprise. And why not? They have seen its fruits.

At last, thousands of poor families are experiencing what it feels to live in dignity, what love of neighbor truly demands, what it means to receive and also to give—of themselves—in return.

Sweat equity, among them, but most of all, *kalinga* (care). Indeed, Gawad Kalinga means to give care.

Meloto tries his best to spread the credit, but there is no denying that he is a major driving spirit in all this.

The INQUIRER visited Meloto in his family's Quezon City home and, with him, met with residents of GK Payatas, once a ghetto inhabited by garbage scavengers and lawless elements and now a clean, colorful community that thrives on hope.

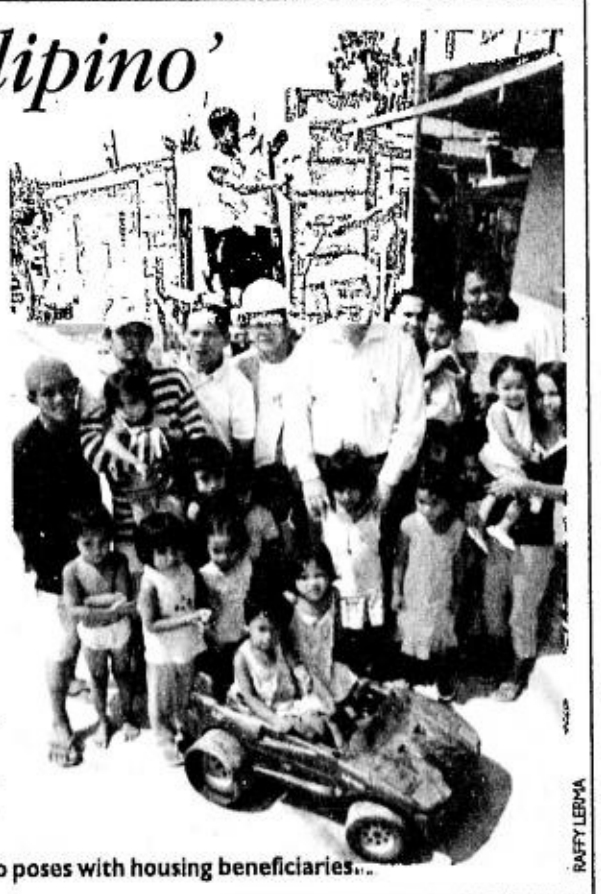
The altered landscape is a jaw-dropping sight, yes, but physical structures are not all there is to the change.

Something greater has happened—and continues to happen—in GK communities such as this. For one thing, GK does not just build and leave.

A shanty at the end of the road is in the process of demolition, but its occupants are all smiles because on the same spot will rise a new structure 77 times better than the old.

Soon, the dwelling will be part

THIS IS/ A10


RAFFY LERMA

GAWAD Kalinga's Tony Meloto poses with housing beneficiaries...

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers in the afternoon

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/16/06

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second FRONTPAGE

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SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2006

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Mayuga wants 2 colonels probed

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Armand N. Nocum

AFTER CLEARING FOUR GENERALS MENtioned in the controversial "Hello Garci" tapes, a military fact-finding board found that some lower-ranking officers were involved in election irregularities, but stopped short of having them court-martialed.

The fact-finding board headed by Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga passed on to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga the responsibility of taking action against those officers.

Mayuga did not identify the officers who were recommended for "further investigation" when he disclosed the summary of the six-month old, so-called Mayuga report last April 12 over state-owned television station NBN-4.

"We have recommended to the chief of staff to investigate specific officers who committed acts of unprofessional conduct," said Mayuga, adding that it was up to Senga if and when such investigation will take place.

Sources said the officers recommended for investigation were two colonels and a captain.

### Bribe attempt

One allegedly tried to bribe an election officer, another campaigned for a party-list group while another escorted a local candidate during the campaign.

In November, Comelec director in Western Mindanao Helen Aguila-Flores accused Army Capt. Valentino Lopez of offering her P50 million to ensure the win of gubernatorial candidate Lepeng Wee, who lost the elections.

Lopez denied the accusation but admitted that he served as security officer for Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano who was allegedly wiretapped talking to the President during the canvassing of votes to ensure her one-million vote lead.

Apart from its findings against certain officers, the Mayuga fact-finding board cleared three ranking generals accused of having conspired to cheat for Ms Arroyo, namely Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Southern Command Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon and retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko.

Another general who was mentioned in the tape by Garcillano as being sympathetic to the opposition, retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, was also cleared.

Even while the probe was going on, Ms Arroyo named Esperon Army chief in August last year and Habacon chief of the military's biggest area command last January. She also named Kyamko, a former Southcom chief, head of an antismuggling task force when he retired.

### Court-martial

Gudani meanwhile is facing court-martial for defying a Malacañang "gag order" when he testified before a Senate inquiry last Sept. 28 that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo distributed P500 million in Mindanao during the elections.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he did not expect people to come out and protest the release of the Mayuga report on the "Hello Garci" scandal.

"I don't see any backlash there. They asked for the release of the report, so it was released," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER yesterday in a telephone interview.

However, it won't be long before critics of the President would start looking for "loopholes" in the report, he added.

"This would be a means towards closure," Gonzales said, admitting that in the end, the dubious nature of the tape must be established to finally end the whole issue.

"Tapes can be manufactured and spliced," he said.

**DRAMA ON THE CROSS**
Ruben Enaje is nailed to the cross during the annual Good Friday crucifixion rites in Cutud, San Fernando, Pampanga and shows no ill effects as he tries to comfort Dominic Diamond (lower left photo), a British penitent who backed out of his vow to be nailed to the cross. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

# Forgiveness, hope sacrifice sum up bishops' Easter call

By Jerome Aning and Cynthia D. Balana

FORGIVENESS. SELF-SACRIFICE. Hope.

These three words summarize the Easter messages of the top Roman Catholic prelates of a country plagued by political uncertainty and socioeconomic woes.

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said forgiveness—which he called an "Easter fruit of the tree of the cross"—would lead to "a birth of a new family in the risen Christ."

"We will taste the happiness of God, when we understand the meaning of Jesus eating and drinking with tax collectors and prostitutes," Lagdameo said. "The fruit of repentance is peace and happiness in God."

"Easter invites us to overcome all boundaries and hostilities, to become a communion of communities, family of families, an Easter people," he added.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, for his part, said the risen Christ showed how freedom from the slavery of sin and vices could be achieved "by self-giving, known today as sacrifice and discipline, in which no gain is achieved without pain."

Rosales called on the faithful to imitate Christ in working for the good of everyone: "His pursuit of good for humans was unchanging, because he was bonded with what was true, what was good and what was honest."

"Let all, from the highest leadership to the littlest villager, while keeping their ideals Christ-related and pure, be motivated by the life and example of Jesus, our Lord," the prelate said.

He added: "With everyone cooperating in humility, understanding, sacrifice and forgiveness, [Christ] can make every crisis an Easter we can all be happy about."

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, in his Easter message, spoke of distress and suffering.

"These are neither good nor promising times for all of us common people. Only a few individuals holding power and wielding influence, having much wealth and resources appear to be happy and content, notwithstanding the present pitiful over-all social condition in urban as well as rural areas, nationwide," he said.

Ordinary Filipinos, he added, are witness to poverty, discontent and division that have come to afflict their day-to-day living.

With Easter, Cruz said, people are hopeful that in spite of "sad and saddening socio-ethical backdrop" they will have "better times.

"[W]ith Christ we die practically every day with our daily trials and difficulties. Yet, we too, like Christ will eventually manage to rise from all our many hurts and fears," he added.

In his Easter message, Vice President Noli de Castro called on public officials to help President Macapagal-Arroyo to unite the people and instill in them the value of cooperation and sacrifice.

"Unity and cooperation may only be achieved if we all reflect on our ways and decide to abandon our selfish motives. We need a change of heart—that of Christ the Savior," De Castro said yesterday.

"For our nation to be able to transcend our differences, the selfless leadership of Christ must be mirrored by our own public officials," he added.

De Castro also renewed his vow to continuously work for the country's welfare.

*"Gaya ng mga paghihirap na dinanas ng ating Hesukristo patungo sa Kanyang Kalbaryo, tayo man ay may sari-sariling krus na dinadala sa ating pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay* (Like the sufferings of Jesus Christ at Calvary, we have our own crosses to bear in life)," he said.

INFORMATION DRIVE

# Big business rides Cha-cha train

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST BUSINESS ORganizations have joined the Charter change express and have agreed to bankroll an information drive through public debates on the pros and cons of constitutional reforms, specifically on economic policies.

The business groups led by Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc. will organize public debates around the country to help the public have "a more intelligent choice" on Charter change.

"Our debates will focus on the economy, specifically on whether or not freeing up the economy to more foreign investors would be beneficial for the country," said PCCI president Donald Dee.

Dee said the format for the debates would be finalized next week.

FFCCI president Francis Chua said his group was prepared to join the debates on Charter change as long as "it will help transform the country into a more attractive investment haven and it will provide our masses more livelihood opportunities."

Both Chua and Dee were members of the Constitutional Commission which drafted the proposed revisions to the Charter.

Chua said the debates would help lay the groundwork for more detailed discussions on Charter change should the people's initiative be upheld.

According to Chua, it would be worth their time and resources to help "enlighten" the public on the potency of having a more "liberal Constitution."

Chua cited for example the benefits of opening up ownership of industrial and commercial lots to foreigners which could fuel a real estate boom like in other countries.

As this developed, the Charter Change Advocacy Commission yesterday continued to drum up support for its cause during the Holy Week.

Commission secretary general Monico Lorenzana said the group has also targeted sectors wary of Charter change, specifically the Catholic Church.

"We're willing to sit down with representatives of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and explain to them on why we need Charter change. I talked to Cardinal Vidal recently and he seemed to be listening," said Lorenzana.

But Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan believes that not even the CBCP can stop the Cha-cha train from going full blast.

Libanan said that unless stopped by the Supreme Court, he believed that a plebiscite on Charter change would be held by June or early July.

Libanan said the pastoral letter issued by the CBCP against the people's initiative has not stopped the signature campaign.

"I personally believe that it will not stop the campaign toward amending the Constitution," Libanan told the INQUIRER.

CBCP president Iloilo Bishop Angel Lagdameo said the people's initiative "might not be a necessity at this time and must be continuously discussed by all concerned."

He said "there should be a lot of studies on this matter because the people do not understand it."

Despite the people's initiative, staunch Cha-cha proponents in the House of Representatives have not ruled out Charter change through a constituent assembly.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the House majority remains aggressive in its campaign to gather 195 congressmen's signatures in support of a constituent assembly despite claims by the minority that it already has the 50 signatures needed to thwart the administration bid.

"After the Lenten break, we will have 195," Nograles said. "And if we already have 195, we will call for a joint session (of both senators and congressmen)," he added. ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

# *But will Susan show up to accept FPJ award from GMA?*

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

COMING SOON IN MALACAÑANG: THE first-ever meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and actress Susan Roces.

The National Artist awards will be handed out in June this year, with Roces' late husband Fernando Poe Jr. highly anticipated as one of the recipients.

"We don't have any problems with their face-to-face meeting although we still don't know if Ms Roces herself will accept the award. But that's good, right?" said Cecile Guidote Alvarez, the presidential adviser on culture.

The conferment ceremonies will be held on June 9 in Malacañang with the Cultural Center of the Philippines holding a tribute in the evening of the same day at the CCP main theater.

"The arts can unite people, the chaotic world of politics is the reason for this division. But I believe in the power of the arts to heal, who knows?" said Alvarez, adding that the final list of National Artist recipients had yet to be finalized.

The President and Roces had a severe falling out after Poe's widow accused Ms Arroyo of stealing the presidency from her husband, "not once, but twice" referring to the alleged cheating in the 2004 elections and efforts to cover up the fraud.

Malacañang released on Tuesday the memorandum and draft release of the six awardees for the National Artist Awards as adjudged after a grueling selection process by the National Artist by the Joint Boards of the Commissioners of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Trustees of the CCP.

Aside from Poe, the other distinguished Filipino artists to be conferred the rank and title of the Order of National Artist are: Bienvenido L. Lumbera (literature), Ramon A. Obusan (dance), Benedicto Cabrera (visual arts), Ildefonso P. Santos Jr., (architecture), and Ramon Valera (fashion design).

There was a snafu when Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye ordered the pullout of the memo and release claiming that it was premature and that the process had yet to be finalized.

Under the law, the President is the final arbiter of who should be conferred the much coveted award.

Malacañang executives confirmed that the President would retain the list submitted by the NCCA and the CCP. Ms Arroyo was only considering adding a few more names to the list, specifically Muslim sculptor and painter Abdulmari Asia Imao, before announcing the final line-up in the next few weeks.

"No one from the list will be erased, we will only add to it. But let's wait for the President to make the announcement," Alvarez said.

Alvarez, who is also executive director of the NCCA, maintained that the choice of Poe as national artist was not done "to please Malacañang [or] to please Ms Susan Roces."

"This is an annual, traditional process; the choice of Mr. Fernando Poe Jr. is not politically motivated. It is based on merits, contributions to arts and culture, nothing more or less," Alvarez said.

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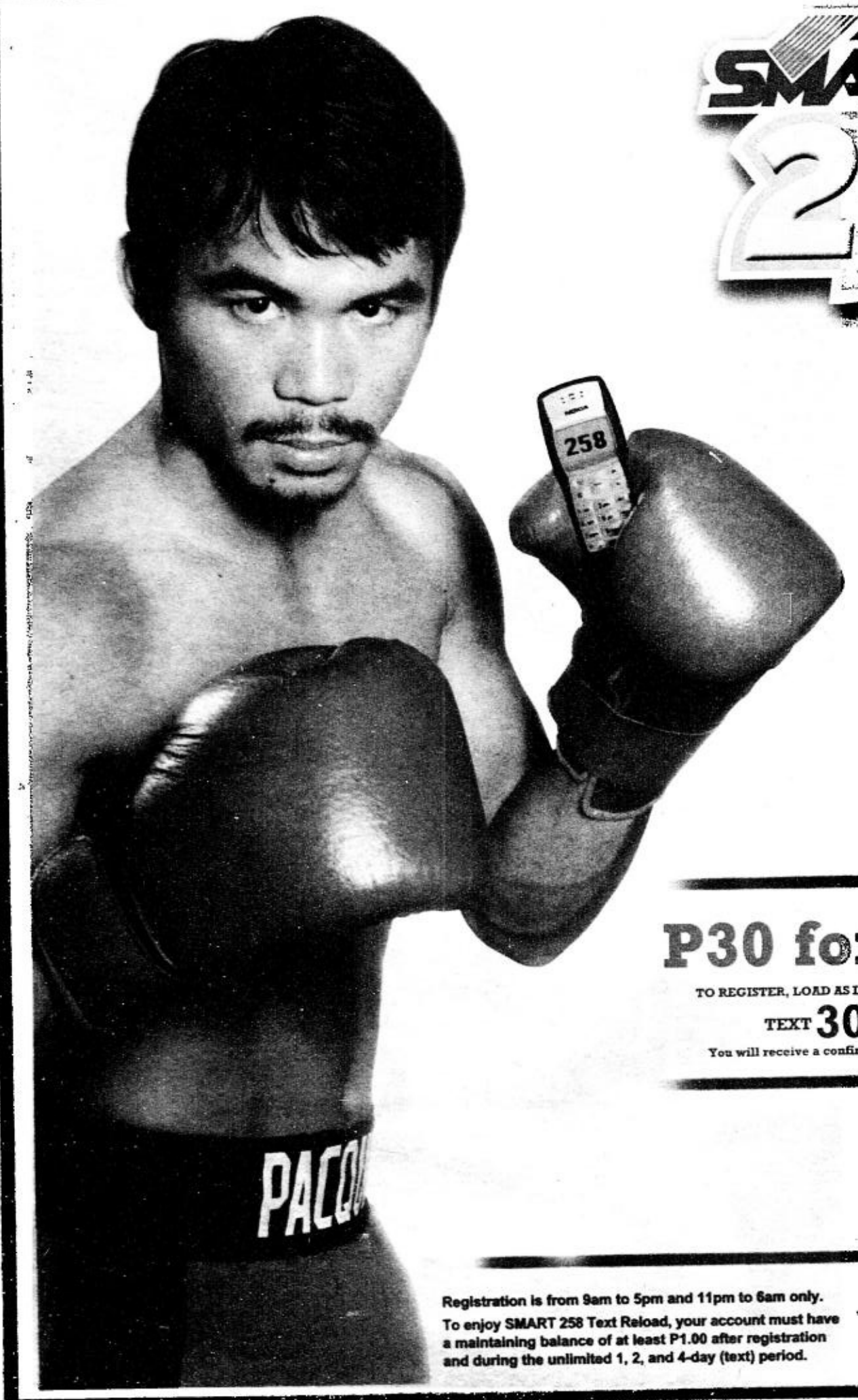


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# OFW dollars seen to double by 2010

ANNUAL REMITTANCES BY FILIPINOS abroad are expected to double to 21.4 billion dollars by 2010 as the populations of host nations age, requiring more guest workers, a labor leader said Wednesday.

"We foresee migrant worker remittances increasing by at least 100 percent over the next five years, barring a global economic shock, such as one that might be set off by a possible avian flu pandemic," said former senator Ernesto Herrera, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines. *AFP*


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| **Taxation** | Justice Japar Dimaampao |
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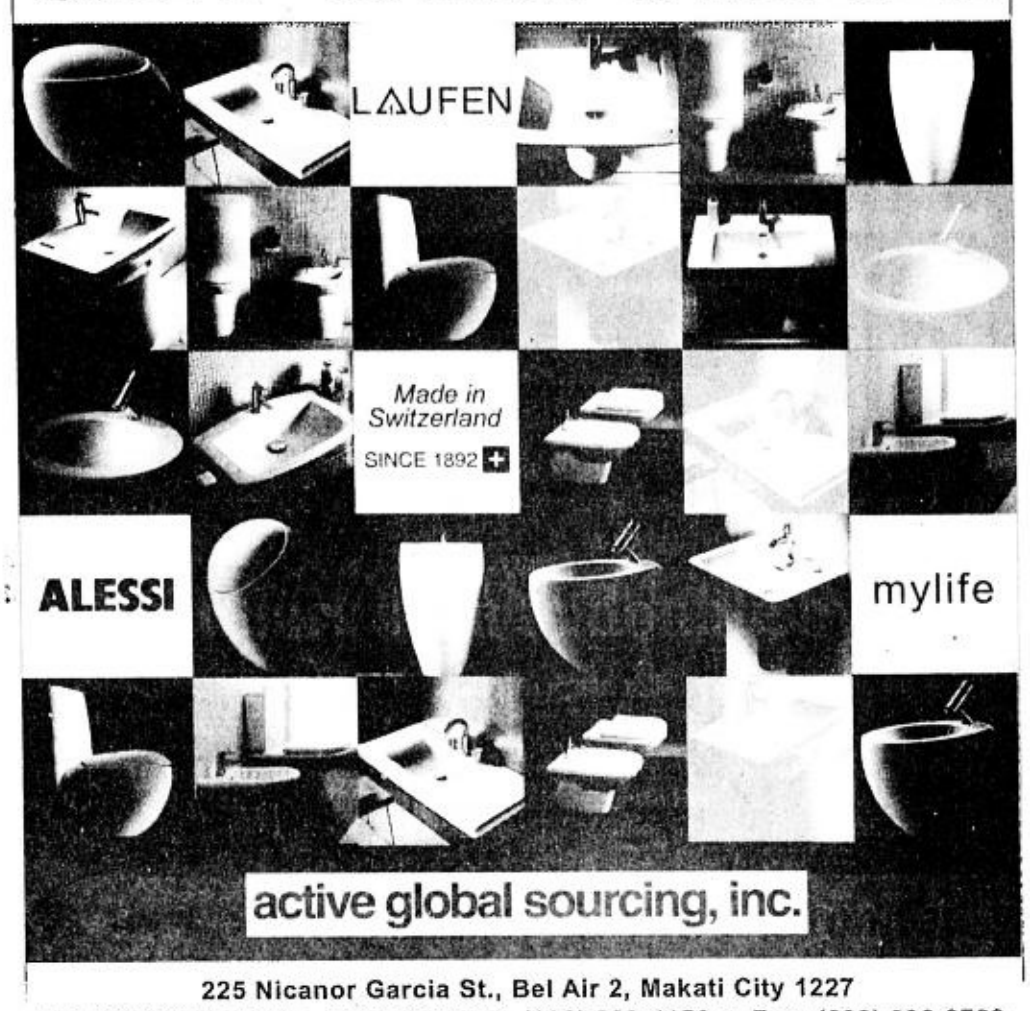


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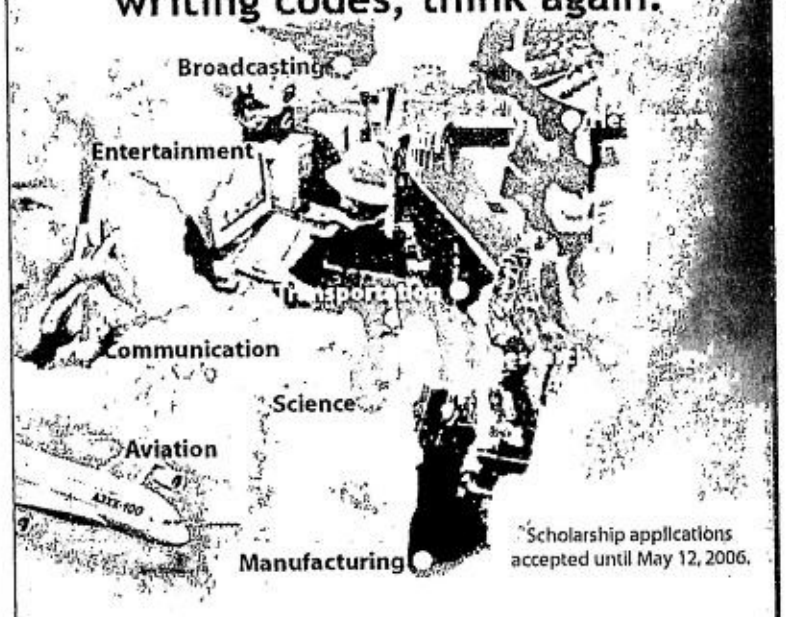


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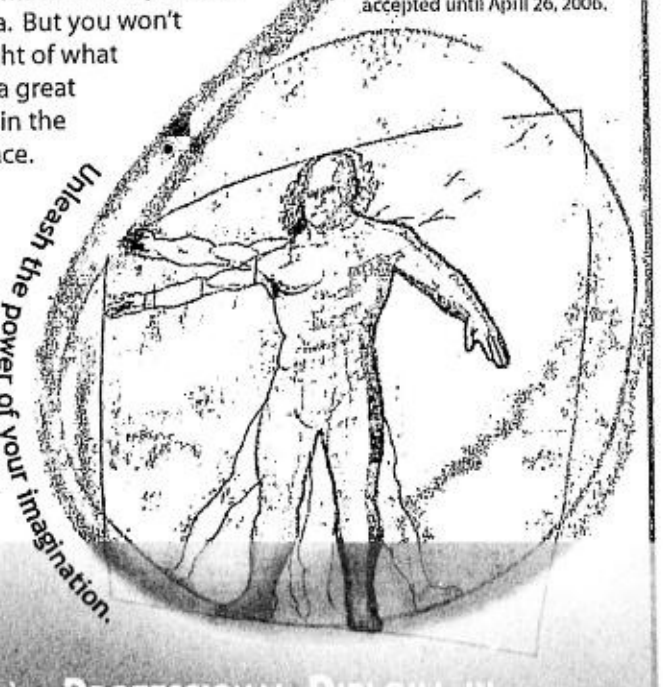


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# Tourist visas not good for UAE jobs

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT Administration has cautioned Filipinos against applying for and getting jobs in the United Arab Emirates on tourist visas.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai, reported that two Filipinas were apprehended and detained at the immigration deportation center for working under visit visas.

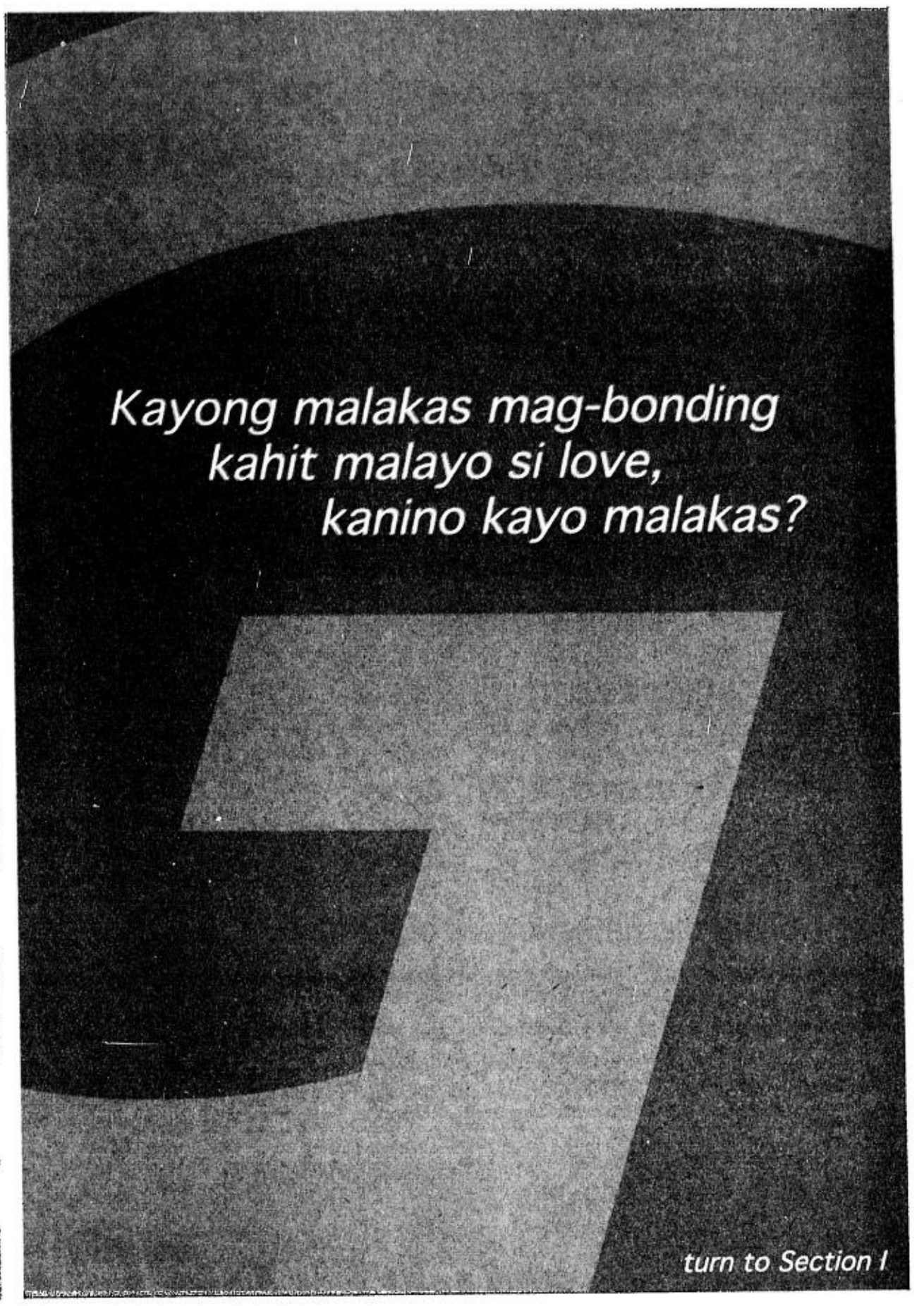
Baldoz said Filipino travelers with intention to work in the Emirates should realize that visit visas are strictly issued for tourist purposes and not for employment.

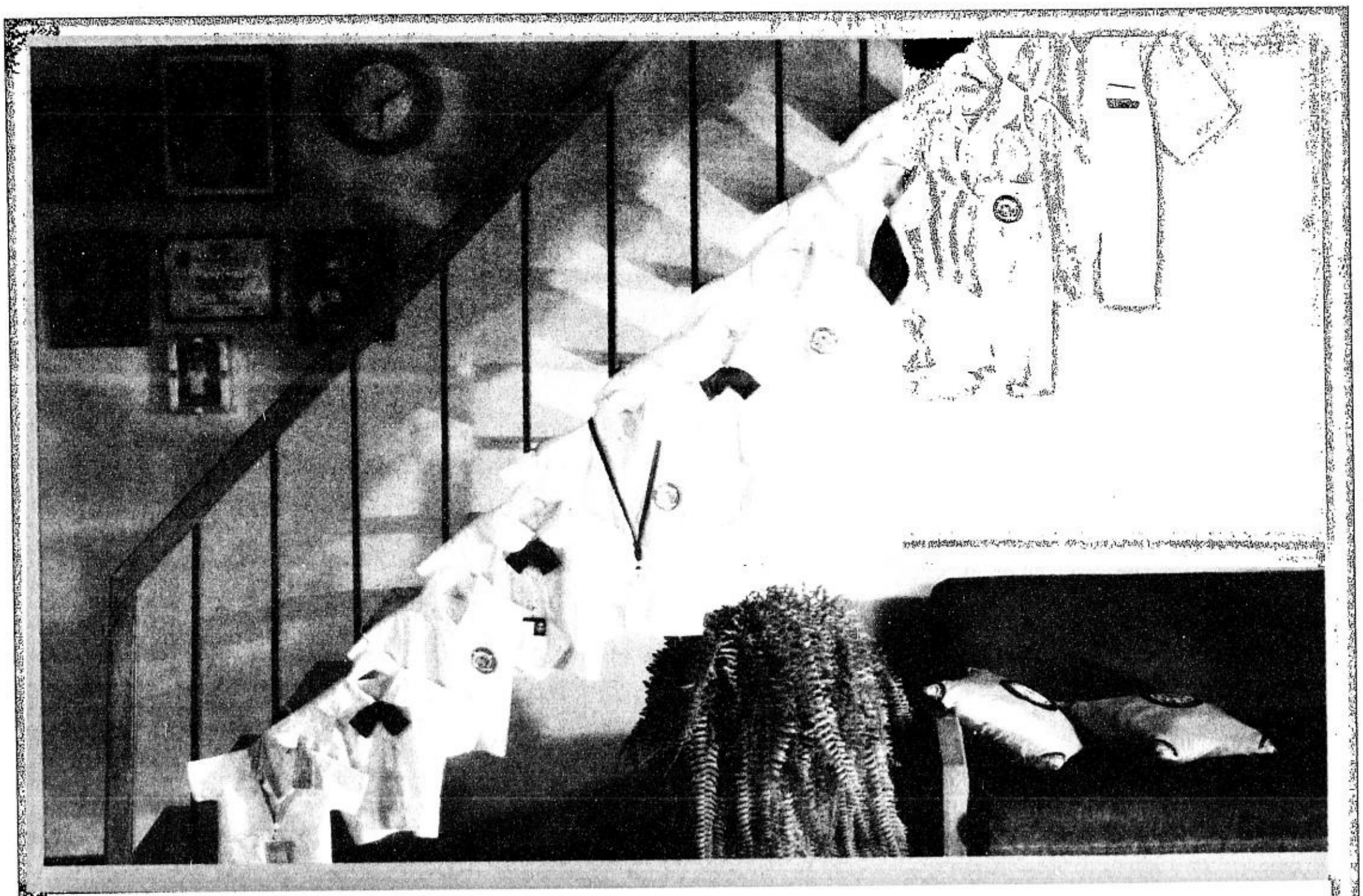
The POEA chief added that UAE immigration authorities may have realized that the illegal practice has become widespread so they are currently conducting a random check among establishments that employ expatriates with tourist visas.

The consulate, Baldoz said, believed the Filipinas' arrests were a clear indication that immigration authorities were now seriously implementing the prohibition for visit visa holders to work, either on a part-time or full-time basis and whether correctly paid or not.

Apprehended visit visa holders would be deported following their detention for seven days. Their employers, meanwhile, would face penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment and closure of the company.

Under existing laws, the status of a visit visa holder who lands a jobs becomes legitimate only if, after a reasonable period of time, the worker has complied with the labor requirements and has had his visa converted to employment visa on the sponsorship of his would-be employer.



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# Idle mines warned on spills

By Norman Bordadora

AS THE HEAT SEARED OVER THE LENTEN holidays, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered the owners of idle mines in Marinduque and Zambales to ensure no spill happens when heavy rains arrive sooner because of the La Niña phenomenon.

Reyes ordered Marcopper Mining Corp. and the Dizon copper mining firm to take precautionary measures in the mines left idle in Marinduque and Zambales respectively following serious mine spill incidents that adversely affected the environment.

"Left unattended, these mine structures will pose a threat to the environment and the nearby communities. The concerned mining firms should immediately institute the appropriate remedial measures necessary to maintain the integrity of the identified mine structures," Reyes said.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has identified the four "critical" mine structures and these are Marcopper's Maguila-guila siltation dam and Tapian pit, and the Dizon's Bayarong tailings pond and Camalca waste dumps.

"Being inactive, the structures need more care and maintenance. The mining firms should ensure that the identified structures can withstand the effects of sudden heavy or prolonged rainfall events or successive typhoons," Reyes said.

The weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has raised the alarm for an earlier onslaught of the wet season associated with La Niña.


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# Court of Appeals reopens fraud case vs Dante Tan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS REopened a criminal case against controversial businessman Dante Tan, a close associate of deposed President Joseph Estrada, in connection with the Best World Resources Corp. (BWRC) stock manipulation scandal of 1999.

In a ruling it issued last Feb. 22, the appellate court's 17th Division reinstated the criminal case against Tan and ordered the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to conduct a trial immediately.

The Court of Appeals also threw out two rulings of Pasig trial court judge Briccio Ygana who first dismissed criminal charges against Tan and then later denied a motion to reconsider that decision.

The CA ruling concerned a petition for certiorari, that is a judicial review of the case, filed by the government against Ygana for grave abuse of discretion in ruling that Tan's right to a speedy trial was violated.

The decision concerns one of five cases that the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting for the government as petitioner, filed against Tan with the Pasig court in December 2000 for alleged manipulation in the purchase of BWRC shares and for alleged failure to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission his beneficial ownership of the BWRC shares.

Separate cases were filed against two associates of Tan, Jimmy Juan and Eduardo Lim Jr., for violations of the Revised Securities Act and their alleged role in the BWRC scam.

Tan pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. He later filed a motion to dismiss one of the five cases against him, No. 119830, on the ground that his right to a speedy trial had been violated.

The government, which had presented evidence on two other related cases but not yet on Case 119830, opposed the motion to dismiss and asked the court for its deferment pending the hearing of the two other BWRC cases. It said that defense and prosecution counsels had agreed during the early stages of the litigation that the prosecution of the cases would be done "one after the other and not jointly" in order not to confuse the court.

On Dec. 22, 2003, the Pasig court granted the motion to dismiss Criminal Case No. 119830 against Tan. On Jan. 20, 2004, the lower court denied a DOJ petition for reconsideration.

The government immediately filed a petition for certiorari against Ygana and Tan, which the CA granted in the Feb. 22 decision.

In the decision penned by Associate Justice Fernanda Peralta, the CA ruled that there was no violation of Tan's right to a speedy trial.

It set aside Ygana's decision dismissing Case No. 119830 against Tan and ordered the lower court to conduct further proceedings on the case immediately.

The CA noted that the right to a speedy trial was violated only when the proceedings are attended by "vexatious, capricious and oppressive delays."

"If (Tan) had really wanted to exercise his constitutional right to speedy trial, he should have asked not [for] the dismissal but for the trial of the case," the CA said.

The court also said that the Feb. 22 ruling would not violate Tan's right against double jeopardy.

If the petitioner failed to present evidence for an unreasonable period of time, then the trial court may dismiss the case and the dismissal would amount to an acquittal and would bar another prosecution for the same offense, it said.

But the CA said the Pasig court's precipitate move to dismiss the criminal case against Tan only prolonged the litigation.

SEC director Hubert Guevara said the DOJ and SEC would file a petition to have Ygana inhibited from hearing the other cases against Tan.

According to the justice department, Tan is facing seven criminal cases for violations of the Revised Securities Act of 1982 involving stock manipulation and fraud in the BWRC stock manipulation scandal which led to the near collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1999.

BWRC share prices jumped to a level that spawned suspicions of stock manipulation. The prices of the stock rose from 80 centavos per share to P30 to P107 within a few months' time.

If found guilty, Tan faces imprisonment of between 49 and 147 years.

However, Tan fled the country and, according to DOJ officials, has been moving from one country to another to escape trial in the Philippines.

The government sought his extradition from Australia in 2001. But he is now reported to be in China with which the Philippines has no extradition treaty.

# Actor urges mall: No Easter bunny giveaways, please

By Jerome Aning

A VETERAN AMERICAN ACTOR has joined local animal rights activists in trying to persuade the operators of a high-end Makati City mall to scrap its Easter promotion drive that would give away 1,000 bunnies as prizes to customers.

Television and film actor James Cromwell, a noted vegan and animal rights speaker, said Easter rabbits that would be given children at the Rockwell PowerPlant mall may end up neglected and abandoned.

Cromwell, best known for his role as Farmer Hoggett in the hit movie Babe, took a break from filming Spider-Man 3 to unite Nestor Padilla, president of Rockwell Land Corp., which owns the mall, last April 14 to urge him to call off the plan.

"It's natural for kids to get caught up in the excitement of this kind of promotion, but inevitably, the novelty of getting a free rabbit quickly wears off," he said in his letter, a copy of which was provided by Manila chapter of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

On Friday, the 66-year-old actor pointed out that rabbits acquired on a whim would likely be quickly abandoned once their guardians realize that they have special needs and that they are not always ideal companions for small children.

However, PowerPlant was likely to push through with the plan, which aims to reward customers having a minimum P400 purchase with "gift bags" that include the Easter bunnies.

A female staff member at the mall's administration office, quoting officer-of-day Onofre Punzalan, told the INQUIRER that the promotion would go on as scheduled in the absence of notice to the contrary from the "higher ups."

She said many animal rights activists have been calling the mall regarding the rabbit giveaway promotion all week but there was no authorized high-ranking official around to speak about the matter.

The staffer added that the mall's general manager JP Macasayan and vice president for retail Malou Pineda have been "in constant touch" with the animal rights groups regarding the activity.

Cromwell explained that since rabbits are avid chewers they would need a "rabbit-proof" environment. He said rabbits' delicate digestive systems could cause health problems that require care by a veterinarian who is knowledgeable about rabbits.

"If you proceed with the giveaway, the vast majority of the rabbits will likely become victims of benign neglect or worse," Cromwell wrote. He added it was very common for Easter rabbits to be abandoned in parks where, unable to fend for themselves, they die of dehydration or predation.

## Corrections

IN THE FIRST EDITION OF the April 12 issue, THE caption of a photo accompanying the front-page story — "Inquirer bags Grand Anvil Award" — inadvertently did not identify the person who presented the award to Inquirer president/CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez. The presenter of the award is former Sen. Heherson Alvarez.

* * *

IN THE APRIL 13 ISSUE, A front-page article —"Widow is loving mom to 60 young offenders" — misstated the first name of the head of the Council for Children in Conflict. Her correct name is Nadeia — not Nadela — Sarte.

PHILIP MORRIS

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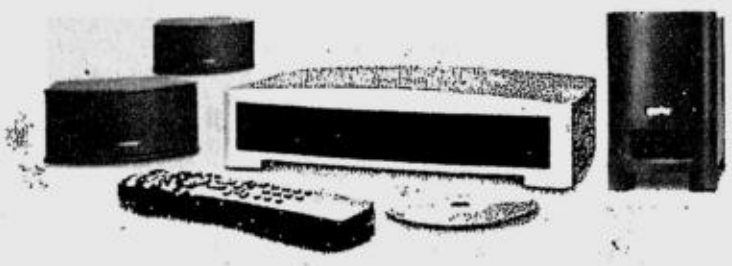

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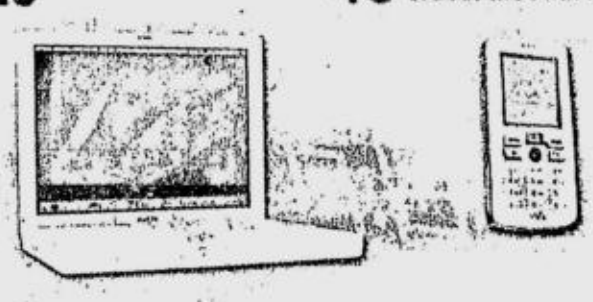

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3. To enter the draw, write your name, address, age (as of April 1, 2006), telephone number and signature on the back of an empty pack of any Philip Morris variant.

4. Only genuine and original Philip Morris packs – manufactured by Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (Philip Morris) purchased in the Philippines, and bearing the Philippine Government health warning and pack seal with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.

5. No photocopies or counterfeits of Philip Morris packs will be allowed. Once submitted, all Philip Morris packs will become the property of Philip Morris, including the right to edit, publish, and use the information therein without any consideration or payment to the participant. Raffle entries will not be acknowledged or returned.

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7. All entries must be received by Philip Morris not later than June 4, 2006. Philip Morris and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, mutilated, postage due, or late entries.

8. The draw will be held on June 23, 2006 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. The following prizes will be drawn:

| Quantity | Description of Prize |
|---|---|
| 1 | Porsche Boxster 2.7 Roadster |
| 15 | Bose 3-2-1 GS-II Home Entertainment System |
| 20 | Apple IBook 40GB |
| 45 | Sony Ericsson W800I mobile phones |
| 65 | Canon IXUS IZOOM digital cameras |
| 160 | Apple iPod Nano 2GB |

9. The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than July 16, 2006. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Advertisement.

10. Prizes will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.

11. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the original notification telegram from Philip Morris and two (2) original and valid identification documents [Driver's license, Passport, Birth Certificate] and Tax Identification Number (TIN). The IDs presented (singly or collectively) should show the following information below. If the IDs submitted do not contain the following three (3) pieces of information, it will not be accepted as valid proof of identification:

- Full Name
- Date of Birth or Age
- Signature

12. In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's acceptable to Philip Morris, he/she must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity; and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.

13. In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim the prize for any reason, he/she can send a proxy. The proxy should be able to present the following:
- A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf.
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 11).
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy.
- Original copy of the notification telegram from Philip Morris.

14. An entrant can only win once. If a person is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of the higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.

15. Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.

16. Prizes will be supplied with standard dealers' warranties only, where available. Philip Morris and its agents will not be liable with respect to: (i) any death or injury or consequential loss or damage arising from the use of any prize; (ii) any dealer's refusal to honor any warranty.

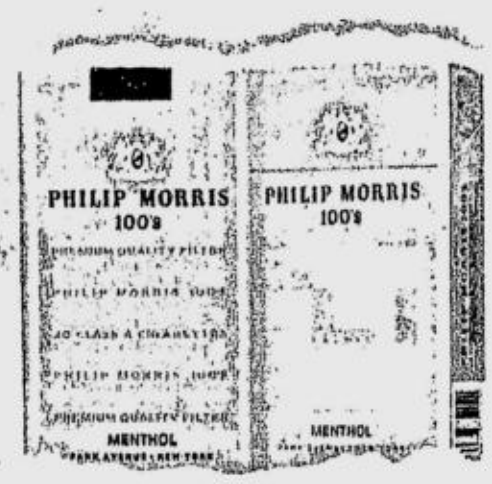
17. Prizes are subject to availability and supplier's restrictions. Philip Morris may, without notice, withdraw or substitute any prize with comparable value and nature.

18. Philip Morris will only pay final withholding taxes on a prize amounting to more than PhP 10,000. Except as expressly provided herein, Philip Morris will not be liable to the winners for any taxes, costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of ownership or use of the prizes.

19. All decisions of Philip Morris and its agents are final and no objections will be entertained.

20. Employees of Philip Morris, their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotional agencies, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity, and DOH-BFAD are not eligible to participate in this promotion.

21. These terms and conditions are subject to any relevant law, government direction and regulation. The promotion will be void where prohibited or restricted by law. Venue of any action arising under this promotion shall be brought solely in the proper courts of Makati City, all other available venues of suit being waived.

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How else must we design the roof system to minimize emissivity build-up in the attic?

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# Ex-general wants Sandigan justice out of RSBS trial

**By Nelson F. Flores**

THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE ARMED Forces Retirement and Separation Benefits System retired Brig. Gen. Jose Ramiscal, has sought the inhibition of Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Jose R. Hernandez from his graft, estafa and falsification cases due to alleged bias.

In a motion filed last April 4, Ramiscal noted that Hernandez is married to Prof. Carolina G. Hernandez, a member of the Feliciano Commission, who has reportedly recommended that all accused in the RSBS cases should be "vigorously prosecuted."

The Feliciano Commission investigated the complaints of junior military officers involved in the Oakwood Mutiny.

"As the husband of Prof. Hernandez, the Hon. Jose Hernandez is disqualified from presiding over the instant cases. Inevitably, the effect of their spousal relationship is, at the very least, to create the impression of partiality and bias which the rules zealously guard against to maintain the independence and integrity of the courts, as well as ensure the cold neutrality of an impartial judge," lawyer Emelita Habacon-Garayblas, Ramiscal's legal counsel, pointed out.

Ramiscal claimed that if Justice Hernandez continues to take part in the proceedings, whatever decision would be reached by the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division in the end would be "looked upon as tainted with undue influence" due to the adversarial position of his wife.

Ramiscal is charged before the graft court's Fourth Division with 13 counts of graft, 12 counts of falsification of public documents and one case of estafa in connection with alleged anomalous real estate acquisitions in Tanauan, Batangas by the AFP-RSBS under his administration between 1996 and 1997.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Sunday, April 16, 2006**
**Easter Sunday**

**1st Reading:** **Acts 10:34, 37-43**

**Raised to life**

Peter spoke to them, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality. No doubt you have heard of the event that occurred throughout the whole country of the Jews, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism John preached. You know how God anointed Jesus the Nazarean with Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him; we are witnesses of all that he did throughout the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem itself. Yet they put him to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.

"But God raised him to life on the third day and let him manifest himself, not to all the people, but to the witnesses that were chosen beforehand by God—to us who ate and drank with him after his resurrection from death. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets say of him, that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his Name."

**2nd Reading:** **Colossians 3:1-4**

**Christ our life**

Brothers and sisters, if you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in Glory.

**Gospel:** **John 20:1-9**

**Risen from the dead**

On the first day after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Peter then set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying flat, but he did not enter.

Then Simon Peter came following him and entered the tomb; he, too, saw the linen cloths lying flat. The napkin, which had been around his head was not lying flat like the other linen cloths but lay rolled up in its place. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and believed. Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.

**Commentary**

*Life begins to seep out into the world: in the words of Peter telling the story, testifying to the wisdom all who knew Jesus now know and must share; in the words of Paul crying out the glory of God in the risen Jesus and among all who live in the company of the Christ seated at God's right hand. We were dead. We are alive. Jesus was killed. Now he lives in glory—and with us—no more to die. His friends, Mary of Magdala, Peter and the one whom Jesus loved (all of us), go to the tomb and must enter (baptism) to be able to see and live in God. We must come to know and see and believe!*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*


## WHAT TO FILE

❖**Form No. 1700**
Annual Income Tax Return for Individuals Earning Compensation Income (.by individuals not qualified for substitute filing)

❖**Form No. 1701Q**
Quarterly Income Tax Return For Self-Employed, Estates And Trusts (including those with both Business and Compensation Income)

❖**Form No. 1701**
Annual Income Tax Return for Self-Employed, Estates and Trusts (including those with both Business and Compensation Income)

❖**Form No. 1702**
Annual Income Tax Return for Corporations and Partnerships

## MODES OF PAYMENT

- **OVER THE COUNTER TAX PAYMENTS**
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  *(IN AREAS WITH NO AABs)*
- **BANK DEBIT SYSTEM**
  *A system whereby a taxpayer, through a bank debit memo advice, authorizes withdrawals from an existing bank account for payment of tax liabilities.*
- **ELECTRONIC FILING AND PAYMENT SYSTEM (eFPS)**
  *An electronic processing and transmission of tax return information including attachments, and of taxes due to the government made through the internet via the BIR website.*
- **EFFICIENT SERVICE MACHINE (ESM)**
  *An automated and computerized kiosk developed by LandBank of the Philippines*
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- eFPS-AABs are hereby authorized to accept payments from eFPS taxpayers who are the banks' respective clients or eFPS taxpayers within their respective jurisdiction.
- Acceptance over-the-counter of tax returns and payments from eFPS taxpayers shall be effective upon declaration of system unavailability by the BIR-Information Systems Group through a Memorandum

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## of Income Tax Return (ITR) for Taxable Year 2005 and Quarterly Income Tax Return for the 1st Quarter of 2006

# APRIL 17 2006

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**SCRAP METAL and VEHICLE AUCTION**
SITE LOCATION: KING JAMES AUCTION PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTER
777 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: APRIL 17 & 18, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: APRIL 19, 2006 (WED) @ 10:30 AM
CONSISTING OF VEHICLES, I-BEAMS, (3) RESTAURANT S/S KITCHEN EQUIPMENT, SCRAP METALS, INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, ETC.
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P10,000

**ARANETA ON-SITE AUCTION**
SITE LOCATION: 1281 G. ARANETA AVENUE, Q.C.
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: APRIL 18 & 19, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: APRIL 20, 2006 (THU) @ 10:30 AM
FURNITURES, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT — ORIENT BANK
CONSISTING OF VAULTS, OFFICE TABLES, SWIVEL CHAIRS, OFFICE PARTITIONS, STEEL FILING CABINETS, CASH BOX, TYPEWRITERS, MONEY COUNTERS, CHECK WRITERS, DEPOSIT SLIP COUNTERS, AIRCONDITIONS
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**ICE PLANT BUILDING, MACHINERIES AND WAREHOUSE**
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SCHEDULE OF BIDDING : APRIL 21, 2006 (FRIDAY) 2:00 PM
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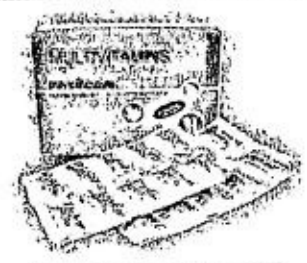

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# RP nun top communicator of congregation

From page A1

people, street urchins, former prostitutes, unwed mothers, and abused women—hardly saccharine work—in accordance with the charism of St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, who wanted her nuns to be a reflection of the "Good Shepherd," a pastor or carer for all.

The RGS sisters also run schools. As an adolescent, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales went to the St. Bridget School in Batangas, a Good Shepherd school.

In March, after the consistory where he received the red hat from Pope Benedict XVI, Rosales visited the Suore Buon Pastore, as the Good Shepherd head office is known, at the Via Raffello Sardiello in Rome. It is where Kuizon resides and holds office.

### Also a webmaster

Sister Regina succeeded the French Sister Marie Establier to become communications coordinator of the RGS in 2003. She was at that time the vocations head of the Philippine province.

"My work as communications coordinator is to encourage every province to have communications persons who are in touch with me, sending me news to share with the sisters worldwide," Kuizon said.

From Rome, Kuizon edits and publishes a monthly newsletter in three languages—French (Journal du Bon Pasteur), English (Good Shepherd News) and Spanish (Diario del Buen Pastor)—which is sent to all the sisters abroad.

She's also a webmaster, providing an online edition of the paper.

Since RGS is an affiliated NGO of the United Nations, Sister Regina coordinates with the RGS representative in New York to provide updates to the sisters worldwide. She also coordinates with the Justice and Peace and Solidarity for Mission in Rome for information to be fed the sisters across the globe.

### Spirit of openness, trust

Kuizon said her office served the needs of the congregation "to enhance our unity, to communicate information in the spirit of openness and trust, to encourage open communication on all levels, to stress and share signs of vitality in our life, mission and fidelity to our charism."

She said her work as a communications expert was adumbrated in the statement of the general assembly of sisters in 2003.

"We live in this reality in a world where the richness of communication, solidarity and spirituality are intertwined with oppression, war, violence, a lack of social, political and economic well-being. But it is in this world that God is incarnated, and that is why we cry out together—apostolic and contemplative sisters and laity—that justice reign universally," Kuizon said.

Sister Regina said her work in communication was just one ingredient in an effective apostolic ministry.

"While I try to do my tasks well for my congregation," she explained, "I also keep in mind the men and women who contribute their share in making the world better for most people."

# *Gonzalez's Lenten reflection: Pimentel*

From page A1

interview yesterday, particularly remembered the time when the President and some Cabinet members attending the two-day retreat were asked to close their eyes, reflect for 30 minutes and concentrate on the things foremost in their minds.

The face of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., one of the President's harshest critics, and the feet of the crucified Jesus Christ flashed in his mind, said Gonzalez.

Asked whether it meant that he wanted to nail Pimentel to the cross, Gonzalez said: "No, it's not like that. His image just came to my mind then. We're friends anyway."

He theorized that it could be because Pimentel was one of the leading pillars of the opposition.

"Sometimes in your soliloquy, either you think of your friends, your enemies or what," he said.

### Friendly enemies

Asked to what category Pimentel belonged, Gonzalez said he and the senator were "friendly enemies."

Gonzalez said that when he shared this particular moment during his meditation to his colleagues, they all laughed, including Ms Arroyo.

But Gonzalez sounded serious when he said that he did not expect much changes in the President's policy toward the opposition and critical media after the Holy Week retreat.

The retreat only convinced some Cabinet men to stay the course in implementing policies that critics described as repressive, Gonzalez said.

He said the problem was not really with Ms Arroyo but with the opposition and other people calling for her resignation over allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election.

Asked whether the retreat had made the President more gentle and forgiving, Gonzalez replied: "The President has always been forgiving. She has always been talking about reconciliation. It's the political enemies who reject reconciliation."

### She's her usual self

Asked whether he saw a new kind of President after the retreat, Gonzalez said: "She's her usual self."

Asked whether the retreat had made him more gentle toward the opposition, Gonzalez said: "I have always been gentle, but I just fight back when necessary ... I do not pick a fight, but I fight back—that's my style."

However, Gonzalez said no politics was discussed during the retreat held by Outreach Philippines Inc., the local chapter of the Trappist movement.

At one time, retreat master Lita Salinas asked why God created men in his image and likeness.

Gonzalez said it was the President who answered. She reportedly said that God did so "because we are different from animals, we have souls."

PIMENTEL

GONZALEZ

# 'This is the best time to be a Filipino'

From page A1

of the hundreds of brightly painted homes. But more importantly, the occupants will feel that they indeed belong to a special community.

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary continue to work there. The Mormons have donated a library.

"This is the best time to be a Filipino," Meloto says. There is no rhetoric there, only the solemnity and humility of one faced with a wondrous moment that he cannot allow to slip by.

Call it a moment of becoming.

### One for the books

Meloto is no stranger to penury or plenty. He has experienced both sides of the tracks, so to speak.

His journey from here to there and back to where he began via a long and winding road that offered him a U-turn is one for the books, or even the movies.

Although GK projects are never tied up with religion (or politics) as far as the choice of beneficiaries, benefactors and volunteers is concerned, there is a spirituality that pervades GK undertakings.

Meloto turns to Acts 4:32-35 of the Bible to explain the GK spirit: "The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own ... There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need."

One has to think in terms of the collective, explains Meloto.

This is also what being a person for others means, says the economics graduate of the Ateneo de Manila, where to be "a man for others" is the dictum.

### 'I forgot the poor'

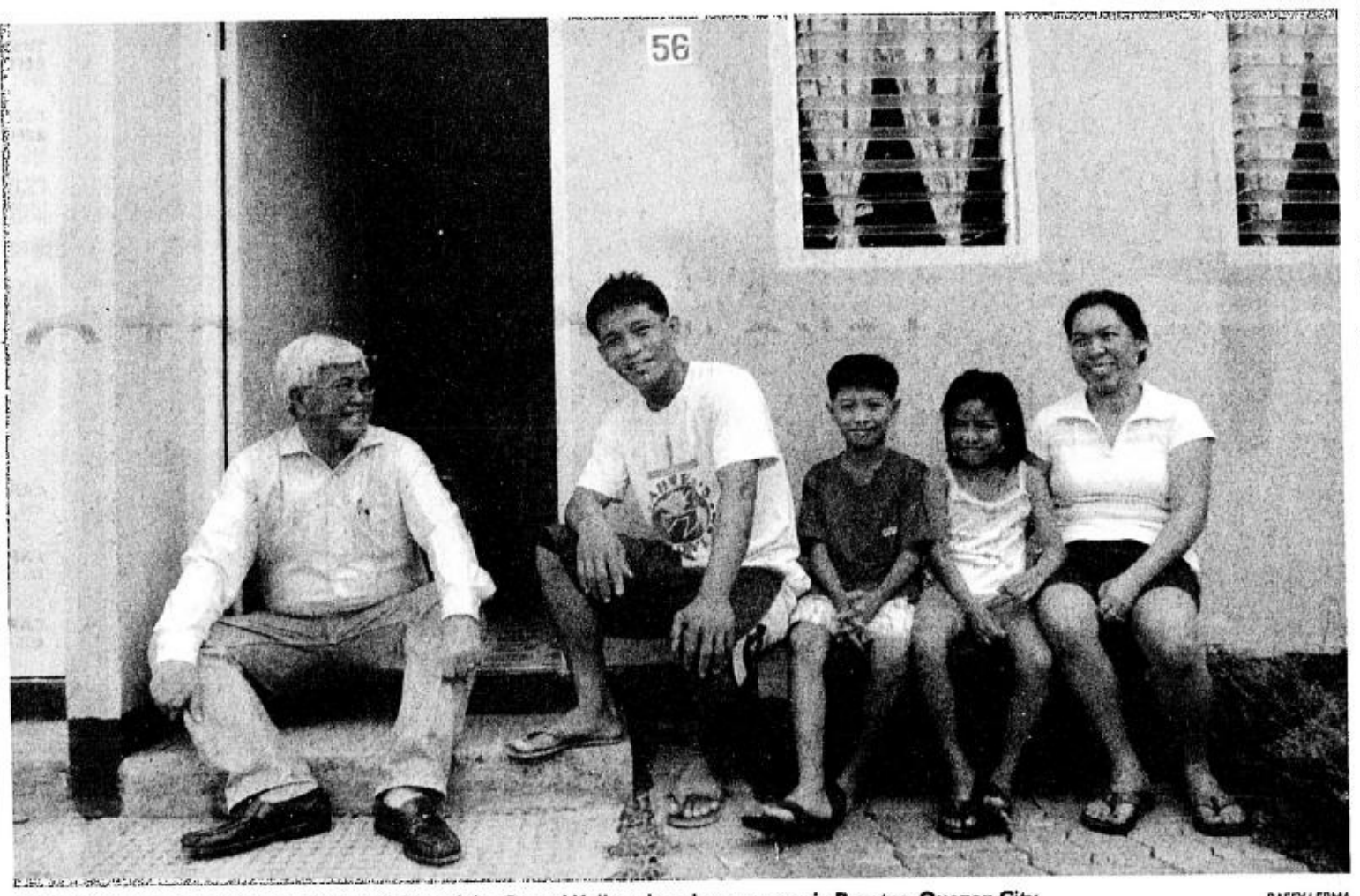
Ateneo students and graduates were among those who helped restore Payatas by transforming 200 shanties into homes.

Its graduating class of 2006 invited Meloto to be its commencement speaker.

But as Meloto confessed to the graduates, it was not easy for him to return to the Jesuit-run institution in the past 32 years:

"I didn't come to reunions and homecomings, simply because of a sense of guilt of a person who grew up with the suffering poor but later forgot them after I got an Ateneo education.

"I was so focused on repackaging and building up myself that I forgot the accompanying responsibility that came with the privilege of an Ateneo scholarship.



MELOTO is welcomed by a family beneficiary of the Gawad Kalinga housing program in Payatas, Quezon City. RAFFY LERMA

"I forgot the poor. I left them behind."

Thus, Meloto has no reason to blame the rich entirely for the plight of the poor:

"How could I expect them to love the poor whom they do not know when I, who grew up poor, forgot to help them?"

### Turning point

The turning point for Meloto came in 1985 when he and his wife Lyn joined Couples for Christ and met Frank Padilla, who was among those who founded the predominantly Catholic family movement in 1981.

The CFC is now present in 140 countries and works "to strengthen the church of the home, build the church of the poor, and help build the nation."

Lyn, Meloto wants to stress, brought him, a lapsed Catholic, back to the fold. Padilla helped him turn his life around and surrender his life to God.

"In CFC, it was a journey of the self," Meloto says. "I embraced the most amazing human reality that I am a son of God. I learned to live a life of celebration in solidarity with other Filipinos. It was a most exciting adventure."

The adventure included "restoring the Promised Land that is our country." And GK became the vehicle for this restoration.

"I knew in my heart that God was preparing me," Meloto reflects. "God had put my family aright. My wife and I were sent to Australia as country coordinators, and there we learned to live simply."

### Middle-class dreams

The GK started to take shape after that foreign stint. It was not all about building structures; it was also about building dreams.

Says Meloto: "Real poverty is not a lack of jobs but losing the capacity to dream. We would like to enable the poor to have middle-class dreams and help them work for them."

And how does one do that if not by going into a community? Meloto reminds all that Jesus went to a community of the poor and showed what servant leadership was about.

"Foot washing is at the heart of leadership," Meloto says, recalling that Jesus washed the feet of His apostles shortly before He was crucified.

It symbolizes equal worth and dignity, especially of the men, he points out.

In extreme poverty situations, according to Meloto, women rise to save the family but the men fall away because of despair. And then the men become predatory, he says. (It is a strange behavioral collapse despite the fact that the societal setup is still biased in men's favor.)

### Humble beginnings

Meloto's own life journey as a man did not head in that direction. He rose to earn power and wealth in the corporate milieu.

He grew up in Bacolod City in Negros Occidental, where the yawning divide between the haves and the have-nots was a given.

In that context of a social volcano, one could say Meloto was a child of humble beginnings.

His mother was a public school teacher for more than 40 years. His father was a teacher too, and later, a clerk.

But raising a brood of six, two of whom were mentally disabled, was not easy for the couple.

When Meloto was a child, the family lived in a place close to a slum area. He knew the poor children by name and played with them.

He also knew he had relatives who were wealthy, but he realized early on that he belonged to the other side of the tracks. He felt insecure, particularly after an injury affected his left eye and left him cross-eyed for some time.

"No rich person was ever unkind to me," Meloto recalls.

He nurtured no wild rage, but he felt a lingering pain: "Mine was a societal wound."

### Back where he came from

Pluck, luck and a good intelligence changed the course of his life.

The public school kid went to the United States via a student exchange program. Upon his return, he got a college scholarship at the Ateneo.

It was there, in the school of the mostly affluent, that it started—a denial of his roots and of who he was.

It was go, go, go for the gold and the good life after that. Until ...

Now back where he came from, in the bosom of the country's poor, Meloto offers his own experience of recrossing the divide.

In order to change, he says, one needs to focus on three things:

"One, I have to focus on the self and undergo personal renewal. I must detach myself from power and money. For example, I have given up my checking account and credit cards.

"Two, I must surrender myself to the bigger plan of God, and that includes surrendering my family.

"Three, I have to die to self. For example, since I am also working with Muslims, I had to give up eating pork."

The GK is building in Camp Abubakar, a Moro enclave.

### Simple path

Quite a number have followed the simple path in order to serve the poor via GK.

There is Elena Kanapi, who left her job as strategic planning director in an international ad agency in order to do full-time volunteer work.

Melo Villaroman, former director of business development for Asia of Procter and Gamble, came home from Singapore with his family and retired at 42 to work with the GK.

Mike Goco, former president of PDCP, is now a full-time volunteer handling the GK's administration and resource management.

Lawyer Patrick Durana and his wife Divine provide legal and corporate know-how in helping find land for the landless.

Much has been written about Dylan Wilk of the United Kingdom, who gave up his extravagant lifestyle to devote his time helping the Philippines through the GK. (He is now Meloto's son-in-law.)

And there are teacher Abigail Villamin of Canada, Jay Capati of Illiois, Eleanor Chichioco of New Jersey, and Erwin Fausto and TJ David, who gave up two years of the good life in their home countries to give of themselves to the Philippines.

The Melotos' four grown children—Anna, Wowee, Jay and Camille—are themselves involved one way or another with GK.

The youngest, 2-year-old Celine, who was adopted moments after her birth, does her share by lighting up any room.

### Revolution of hope

And does he have any fears?

Says Meloto: "No major fears. I know we have placed a formidable challenge to ourselves in promoting the GK vision of building a squatter-free, slum-free, crime-free Philippines, where there is dignity for all.

"The reason I don't consider this a fear is that I believe this is what the majority of our people desire and are willing to work for if given the opportunity.

"I believe in the immense potential of the Filipino, including the poorest among them, who have shown greatness and excellence. I have seen this in more than 700 GK communities across the country, in empowering 70,000 to help themselves and one another.

"The GK has struck a gold mine, the Filipinos' immense capacity to love, hope, dream and work together. The GK is a revolution of hope. People are sharing the best of themselves for the least of our countrymen."

Meloto captures the GK phenomenon by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "Once you were forsaken, hated and unvisited, now I will make you the pride of the ages, a joy to generation after generation ... No longer shall violence be heard of in your land, or plunder and ruin within your boundaries. You shall call your walls 'Salvation' and your gates 'Praise.'"

*For more on the GK, visit www.gawadkalinga.org.*

# DSWD eases requirements for travelling minors

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT Of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has issued amended guidelines which aims to simplify the application and issuance of travel clearances for minors traveling abroad.

A travel clearance is a document issued by the DSWD to a minor—anyone below 18 years old—who is travelling abroad alone or with someone other than his parents. This is issued to prevent child trafficking and is required by law.

The guidelines set the validity period of a travel clearance for one year starting from the date of issuance, provided that the conditions under which the document was issued had not changed. For instance, if there is a change in traveling companion, a new travel clearance must be obtained.

## Tedious no more

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said the amended guidelines were a welcome development because this would eliminate the tedious process of securing a travel clearance every time a child travels abroad.

Based on the new guidelines, exemptions from securing a travel clearance include:

- Minor traveling abroad whose parents are in foreign service or are living abroad, provided the child holds a valid pass such as a dependent's visa or permanent resident visa.
- Minor traveling abroad with either parent or with his or her solo parent or legal guardian.

Cabral said the Parental Travel Permit—a former requirement for a minor traveling with only one parent—was no longer needed.

## Solo parent

A solo parent should be able to show a photocopy of a solo parent identification card issued by the Municipal Social Welfare Office. For Muslim solo parents, a Tallaq or a Fasakh certification from the Shariah court or any Muslim barangay or religious leader should also be presented.

Other proofs of solo parenthood are: certificate of no marriage from the local civil registrar, death certificate or certificate of legal guardianship issued by the court.

Requirements for application of travel clearance are: duly accomplished application form, photocopy of the birth certificate or passport of the minor, a written consent of both parents or the solo parent or the legal guardian permitting the minor to travel alone to a foreign country, photocopy of the marriage certificate of the minor's parents or certificates establishing solo parenthood, and two colored passport-size photos of the minors taken within the last six months.

For subsequent travels the requirements are: duly-accomplished application form, written consent of both parents or the solo parent or the legal guardian permitting the minor to travel alone to a foreign country, a photocopy of the previous travel clearance, and two colored passport-size photos.

Parents, a legal guardian or a duly authorized representative may file the application at any DSWD field office. Application forms may be obtained from any DSWD field office or may be downloaded from the DSWD web site (www.dswd.gov.ph). Processing fee is P300.

The DSWD travel clearance may be obtained within three working days from the DSWD Travel Clearance Unit provided all requirements have been fulfilled.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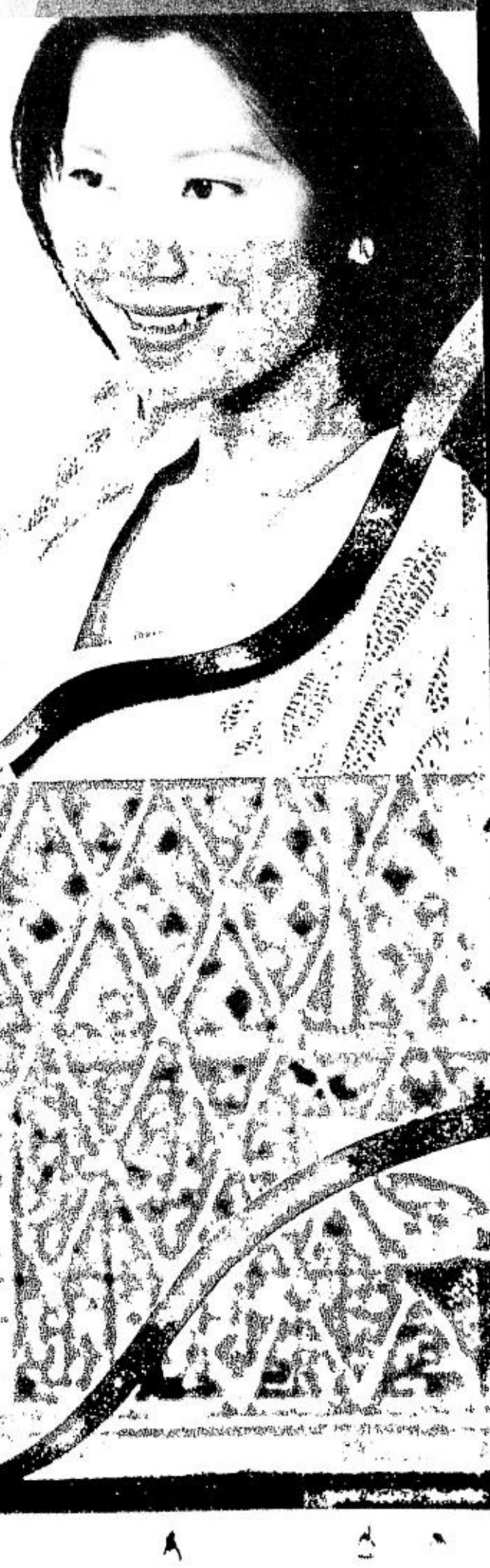

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# OPINION

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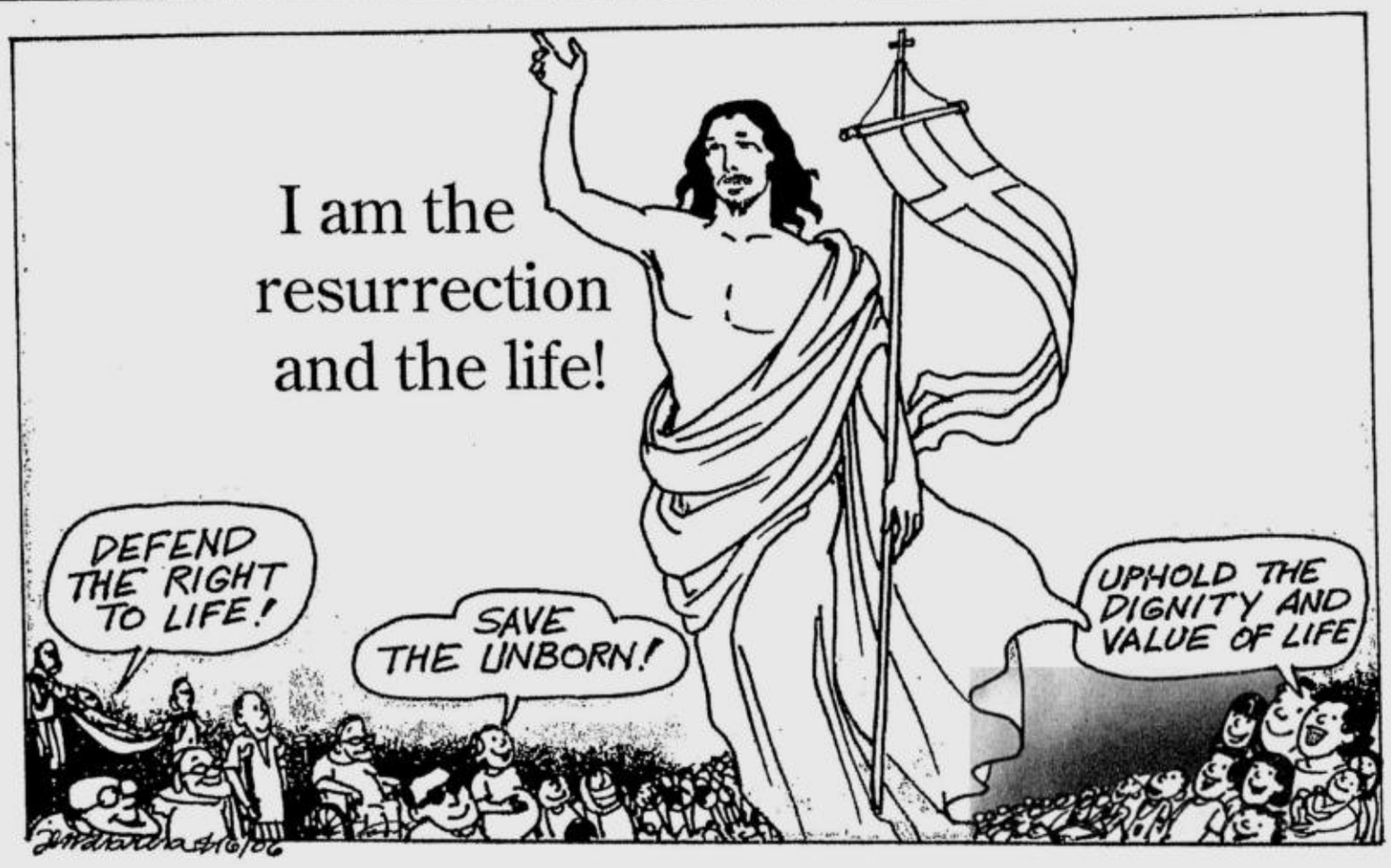


## The missing

**EDITORIAL**

THE CHURCHES IN THE PAST THREE DAYS—AND even the beaches—have buzzed with talk about the so-called lost gospel of Judas. There has been considerably less discussion about the Catholic bishops' pastoral statement on the "alleged" people's initiative, and the pastors' challenge for the laity to "discern, decide and act in the light of the Gospel."

That is a pity, because a serious response to the bishops' call to Christian arms would have led all of us back to the real gospels, and in the process shed light on the Judas story. At a time when the faithful are called to "take up once again the responsibilities of good citizens," a discussion of the meaning of fidelity and betrayal can only prove useful.

In light of today's feast—the greatest in the Christian calendar, and the real meaning behind the privations of Lent, the anniversaries of Holy Thursday, the ultimate sacrifice of Good Friday—perhaps the most striking aspect of the Judas text is not what is in it, but what is not: The gospel has no resurrection story.

It ends with Judas' betrayal of Jesus Christ. "Jesus answered them [the high priests] as they wished. And he received some money and handed him over to them."

The ending does not come as a surprise; it confirms the gospel's main expository thrust, which is a justification of Judas' betrayal. That is, an explanation of his act, written by the members of an already heretical Christian minority at least a hundred years after His death. (But the rationalizing drive, which portrays all the other apostles as venal and ignorant and Judas as the only disciple who loved and understood Jesus, sputters at the very end: If Judas had betrayed Jesus as an act of obedience, why did he accept "some money" for the deed? Some acts cannot be explained away.)

The real gospels, however, all describe a resurrected Christ. **Their** main narrative drive takes them past the parables and the miracles and the Passion, to the greater miracle of resurrection. That is the real good news. For the Christian faithful, mankind is saved precisely because Jesus conquered death; his rising from the dead is not a mere glimpse of his divinity but an earnest of **our** life after death.

Aside from the likelihood that the so-called lost gospel of Judas is a third- or fourth-century copy (in ancient Coptic) of a second-century Greek original (and thus at least a hundred years too late to give us the real Jesus or the authentic Judas), it is the text's lack of a resurrection story that ultimately betrays it as non-canonical, as undeserving of inclusion in the New Testament. It is not a true gospel.

Christians believe that each human act has a history; it may begin with personal circumstances, with one of the many accidents of life, but it ends either redeemed by or rejecting God. The Judas text stops at precisely the point where, or before, redemption comes in.

In other words, if a gospel is correctly understood as a faith account, the Judas text accounts only for faith **in** Judas. The Jesus who appears in the gospel of Judas is a lesser figure—quick to laugh at his disciples' ignorance, quicker to share supposed secrets with a favorite. (One of those secrets, not coincidentally, is that he is only an angel. No wonder the early Church fathers condemned the text.)

We are asked to believe in Judas, but at Jesus' expense.

That is the sorry, sordid tradeoff, when the resurrection story is abandoned or forsaken. That is also the challenge facing us as citizens in Caesar's realm. Christians who "take part in public life in a personal capacity" (in the words of the new Pope) must not act as though the Christian experience ended on Good Friday. What is called the Lord's Passion tells the story of the triumph of the material, the merely human, world. But the real story does not end there, for Christians are called to be Easter people.

Thus, when the bishops write of "the self-sacrificing love of Christ, that alone brings life to the world," Christian citizens are reminded that it is their duty, as the Pope says, "to work for a just ordering of society." Reflection on the Judas text encourages the faithful to carry on that work as part of the continuing resurrection story.

## Can the initiative revise the Constitution?

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THE CHA-CHA will go down in the nation's history as one of the most expensive, deceptive, stupid and shameful exercises foisted on the people by self-seeking politicians. They are scheming to promote their tarnished ambitions with high-sounding prevarications and the usual persuasions of money, official favors and intimidation that are the tools-in-trade of most of our current public leaders.

President Macapagal Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia are the top proponents of the revision of the 1987 Constitution with the establishment of the parliamentary form of government in lieu of the present presidential system. They are arguing that the change is the solution to the current problems of the country and should be effected soon to redirect our efforts from stagnation to prosperity and progress. The thinking members of the body politic see, however, more sardonic and sinister purposes in these protestations.

Ms Gloria created the so-called Consultative Commission for the announced purpose of consulting the people on the changes that should be made in the present Constitution although its real but not so secret mission was to sell the parliamentary system where she is hoping to remain in power now that her present office as President of the Philippines is in serious question. As expected, not many citizens have paid any attention to the report and recommendations of this useless body except those who hope to be benefited by the revision of the Constitution through fair means or foul.

Most likely foul, from the current moves of the would-be revisors, including the members of the House of Representatives who are following the leader like grown-up kids instead of responsible legislators. Many of them are eager to push through the plan included in the proposed revision to cancel the 2007 elections and extend their term to 2010.

One of their strategies is to convert Congress into a constituent assembly even without the required participation of the Senate, which is not interested in their maneuver. They are arguing that Congress can propose such revision "upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members," which they say need not include the dismissive senators. The problem, though, is the Supreme Court, which may have a different view of their self-serving interpretation.

Aware of the flimsiness of their position, the advocates of the revision are also, and more strongly, offering the initiative as the means to their desperate end. They see this method as the safer and more reliable fall-back tactic, besides being more democratic. They are sure it will be easier to muster the votes required in Article XVII, Sec. 2 of the Constitution, considering their vote-getting abilities through fair means or foul, mostly foul.

To demonstrate their loyalty to the chief carnival barkers of Gloria and Pepe, their minions in Manila have announced that they have already gathered millions of signatures in support of the initiative. Other local governments, not to be outdone in their servility to the Dreadnought Duo, have already earmarked hundreds of millions of taxpayers' money to fund their own obsequiousness.

How many of those signatures will be bought or coerced, we do not know. How many of such signatures will be forged or falsified, we do not know. More importantly, we cannot tell how many of the supposed signatories will understand the meaning and purpose of the initiative as a singular exception to republican democracy, where the people act not directly but through their chosen representatives.

Even assuming that all the required signatures are honestly affixed, I seriously doubt that they will have been obtained from persons who understood that they were participating in the solemn act of changing the supreme law of the land and not just a statute or a municipal ordinance.

By the special and still-untried method of the initiative in this country, its proponents would directly propose a major change in the Constitution without the benefit of a more careful study by a deliberative body theoretically composed of persons knowledgeable in the art of constitution-making.

An amendment is a minor or isolated change that can easily be studied without extended debate among experienced craftsmen or even the people at large. But a revision is a more significant change that calls for a careful rewriting of practically the entire document and even the adoption of a different political philosophy. Such is the plan to replace the presidential with the parliamentary form of government, which should be initially studied not by the people directly but by Congress or a constitutional convention.

That is why, as I have observed several times in this column, Art. XVII, Sec. 2 clearly provides: "Amendments to this Constitution may likewise be directly proposed by the people through initiative" only, unlike Congress or a constitutional convention that may propose **amendments or revisions** under Sec. 1 of the same Article. Only **amendments and not a revision** may be proposed by the initiative being unlawfully orchestrated by President Arroyo and Speaker De Venecia.

## Joyful and humble service

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A WIFE WHO went to a fortune-teller to ask about the future. When the fortune-teller told her that her husband would die of a violent death within the year, her response was: "I know that already. What I want to know is whether I will be acquitted."

* * *

**In today's Gospel (Jn 20, 1-9), the disciples are filled with awe and disbelief when they see the empty tomb on the first Easter morning. They know about the resurrection because Jesus had told them about it on several occasions in the past. But when it finally happens, they are shocked, bothered and bewildered. His words are fulfilled. They are also puzzled because they do not understand the tremendous event. Finally, they are afraid and guilty. Why? Because all of them had abandoned Jesus in his darkest hour.**

* * *

The central event of our faith is the resurrection. If there were no life after death, then we, Christians would be the greatest fools on earth. Why be good? Why sacrifice? Why suffer? All these would not make sense if life ended in death. Then as the Epicureans would say, "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." Period. But for us Christians, death is not a period. It is a comma, a doorway to eternity.

* * *

**If Jesus did not rise from the dead, He would not have been the Christ, the Lord and Savior. He would have been known as a great man who lived, and died. His death would not have been redemptive. The Resurrection completes the mystery of the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery.**

* * *

What are the stones that keep us buried in our own tombs? What are the burial clothes that wrap us even while we are still living? Many of these tomb stones and burial clothes that entrap us are of our own choice and making. However, getting rid of them often requires a power beyond us. This Easter, let us ask the Risen Lord to free us from the stones that imprison us and the burial clothes that strap us. Yes, let us ask the Lord to set us free, and to let His glory shine like it did on the first Easter morning.

* * *

**Let us pray that the Risen Lord will set us free from the tomb stones and burial clothes that still burden us as a people and as a nation. May the spirit of sacrifice and self-denial break forth in our midst, beginning with our leaders. May the power of the Risen Lord move our leaders to put service above self. May the light of His glory vanish the darkness of sin and the night of lies and deceit that cover our land.**

* * *

Easter is not only an event that happened some 2,000 years ago, but an ongoing event that should move us to tell the world of God's love. Whenever we proclaim His goodness, whenever we share His love, we make Easter happen again in our present day and time. We all should be busy Easter-mongering, spreading the Good News and passing on the Light.

* * *

**Bishop Mario Peralta remarked, during his Episcopal ordination, that the honor in being a bishop is not so much in having a ring, or having a palace or having the power as a prince of the Church; but having the privilege of serving the people of God, especially the poor, and having the chance to serve his brother priests. Humble service. This is what the risen Lord asks of us all.**

* * *

Sixteen SVD priests, including myself, had the chance to serve as waiters in a dinner for a cause last April 8 at Christ the King Mission Seminary. Isn't a priest's whole life, after all, a life of waiting and serving? We are always on call and ready to render service. In a very special way, the priest as a server and a waiter, is seen in the Eucharist. Joyful service. Happy to be of service to all of you! Happy Easter everyone!

* * *

**Here is a text message I received that is worth pondering on: "Jesus had no servants yet they called Him Master; No degree yet they called Him Teacher; No medicines yet they called Him Healer; No army yet kings feared Him; He won no military battles yet He conquered the world; He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him; He was buried in a tomb yet He lives today; Feel honored to know and serve humbly and joyfully such a leader who loves us!"**

* * *

We will be in Sacred Heart Center, Cebu City this April 22, 6 p.m., for a Mass and a dinner for a cause, to help Fr. Cornelio Alpuerto, SVD raise funds for the Arnold Janssen Shrine in Alumnos, Basak San Nicolas, Cebu. For inquiries, please call 032-2624515 or 09202241062.

* * *

**A moment with the Lord:**

*Lord, help me make Easter happen again and again through my humble and joyful service. Amen.*

# The gift of Erika

**REVEILLE**

*Ramon J. Farolan*

A WEEK BEFORE PALM SUNDAY, WE ATTENDED a retreat organized by the Holy Name Society of the Mt. Carmel Parish. The retreat was held at Caleruega, the beautiful complex of cottages and facilities set up by the Dominican Order in Nasugbu, Batangas. Its lovely chapel on the hill has long been the favorite for wedding ceremonies, and the quiet serenity of its surroundings make it an ideal site for retreats and recollections.

Our retreat facilitator was Fr. Thaddeus (Ted) Valencia of the Congregation of St. Basil (OSB). In 1979, he became the first Filipino priest to be ordained in Canada. He spent much of his time in missionary work in the American continent. Two years ago, he came home for good. And he is now with the Good Shepherd Cathedral in Fairview, Quezon City.

Father Ted's topic was the Matthew version of the beatitudes:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,*
*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn,*
*for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,*
*for they will inherit the land.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,*
*for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure of heart,*
*for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,*
*for they shall be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted*
*for the sake of righteousness,*
*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you*
*and utter all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

*Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.*

As we were going through each of the Beatitudes, I found myself constantly reminded of a young girl who recently passed away under difficult circumstances.

Erika was the daughter of middle-class parents. As a kid, she was more of a spoiled brat, always fighting, kicking and screaming in order to get her way. She had chubby cheeks, a cute smile and was a happy individual, but overbearing when she got into one of her selfish moods.

At the age of 7, she lost her Dad and a short while after, she began to change. Her tantrums became less frequent and she made a lot of friends in school. She blossomed physically as well and her smile became lovelier and infectious. People were attracted to her and she reciprocated with great affection.

Erika also developed a great sense of humor and when asked why the turnabout in her personality, she replied that at a certain point, she had paused to ask herself why she didn't have that many friends and why she tended to turn people off. She examined herself and identified the traits which needed discarding and she made an effort at replacing them with positive values. It was a kind of awareness so rare in such a young individual—a maturity exceeding that of older people.

Erika became concerned over the welfare of others, visiting families of friends who were in need. One day, she brought home a classmate, a boy half her size. She told her Mom that he was being physically abused by his father and she planned to bring the case to the barangay captain later. Over the years, Erika would bring home various classmates simply because they needed her help.

There is a saying: "If you are young and you are not a revolutionary, you don't have a heart. If you are old and you are still a revolutionary, you don't have brains."

At age 15, in only her third year in high school, Erika knew what she wanted to do. Like many young people around the country who have witnessed first-hand the sufferings of people and the injustices and inequalities of the system, she joined the movement, believing that she could help change the world.

She gave up the simple pleasures of window-shopping in an air-conditioned mall, of seeing a movie once in a while, of going with friends to some beach resort, of enjoying the company of relatives in family gatherings. She exchanged all these for rubber sandals, open skies and field mice for dinner every now and then. She didn't hate anyone. She simply believed fervently in a better world. While many of us expressed similar thoughts, Erika lived her belief. There can only be one explanation—nothing is more powerful than the idealism of youth.

For the next six years, Erika would share hardships and deprivations with others like her who believed in the same ideals and had a common vision for society. Wherever she went, she spent her time and efforts for the poor people of the community around her. In those six years, she was home only a few times, but seeing her so unbelievably happy, one would never guess how hard life must have been for her. Perhaps, she was a good actress. Her sense of commitment to the cause never faltered.

Last month, a few weeks short of her 21st birthday and on the same day her father died 14 years ago, Erika returned to the Lord.

There is no reason to grieve for Erika. She is back with her Dad and all her friends and relatives who left ahead of her. She doesn't need our prayers. She is, without doubt, in a place where all people who have toiled in the service of their fellowmen are enjoying eternal rest. It is we, the living, who need her intercessions.

This is not a time for regrets or sorrow or petitions. It is a time for thanksgiving and gratitude for the gift of Erika.

A Happy Easter to all!

# Right on the nose

**REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE**

*Patricia Evangelista*

I HAVE ALMOST COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE one thing stopping me from conquering the world is my nose.

I mean, you'd think at first, what's in a nose? Anatomically, a nose is "a protuberance in vertebrates that houses the nostrils which admit and expel air for respiration." Muzzle, honker or snout, a nose is a nose, with no other reason for existence than the purely functional. Or so I thought.

I never really thought there was anything particularly different about my nose. It had two holes and sucked in air without too much trouble. Actually, I used to be quite proud of my nose when I was a kid—if you look at it from below, my nostrils are shaped like upside-down hearts. I made it all the way to high school before some genius Atenean decided to do his good deed for the day and enlighten me. As I was a highly insecure 15-year-old with braces, bad hair and a weight problem, telling me my nose resembled that of the Wicked Witch of the West was not the best way to make me a friend. My obsession over my particular "protuberance in vertebrates" reached Alpine heights when Neozep introduced its Ilong Ranger mascot. At odd moments, my mental picture of myself involved a pair of legs growing out of a larger-than-life nose.

Unlike the braces or the haircut, I never outgrew the nose. I have a sneaking suspicion my nose gets witchier by the year. Someone did a Focus Group Discussion for the morning show I co-host on Studio 23. The results were pretty diverse: some hosts, the FGD claimed, talked too little or too much, and one particular host (guess who) had "a distracting nose."

A few months ago, I wrote a column that sparked debates on the nature of activism. There were legitimate attacks coming from the Left, but the most interesting ones online came from those whose ideological criticism rapidly deteriorated to criticism of my olfactory organ. I think that was harder to refute than the discussion of my political leanings.

A week ago, I was racing to my adviser's office in UP when an elderly lady stopped me, asked if my name was Patricia Evangelista and if I wrote an INQUIRER column. I smiled and agreed. We chatted a little, and I walked away immensely satisfied with the world in general and myself in particular. A couple of days later, I got an e-mail from the same elderly lady. Apparently, she wasn't too certain it really was me clattering down the steps, but all hesitation disappeared when I turned to look at her. "The distinct nose gave you away!"

My family loves pictures. Whenever a camera appears within a five-mile radius, heads swivel in the direction of the flashing light. It's practically a sixth sense. Of course, there's that minute-long gap between "one-two-three cheese" and the actual click of a shutter. That's the time it takes for one cousin to cover her left ear with a lock of hair cut precisely for that purpose (the left ear, she insists, sticks out more than the right) and for another cousin to whip off inch-thick eyeglasses. Then there's the simultaneous straightening of shoulders and ruthless sucking in of cheek and stomach. During this whole exercise, my mother's voice reverberates in my head—"Remember, boobs out, all ways boobs out."

Which illustrates my point on noses beautifully. There are Wonderbras and Maximizers for the less fortunate (assuming they don't get the same treatment I do—"Sorry ma'am, we don't make them in that size anymore"). Anyone can hide an ear, plump up lips, thicken lashes with mascara, add height with heels, lose a couple of belly inches on a diet and cover up scars with concealer. How do you disguise a nose with less than two hundred thousand bucks and a scalpel-wielding surgeon? I mean, the nose is just there, front and center, poking out (in my case, poking down) gleefully at the world.

Studies have found that Asian noses are adapted to suit a specific climate. The people of the colder East have smaller noses because it reduces surface area to volume. South Asians deal with the climate by having noses that are broad vertically, while Southeast Asians' noses expel heat by being large horizontally. So genetically and geographically, I have no escape. My nose is preordained—which is unfortunate in a world that is fixated on noses.

Think of all the metaphors that relate to the nose. I'm betting it's the imagery that makes them so powerful—and painful. You "pay through the nose," claim it's "no skin off your nose," and "win it by a nose." Rosemary Wahtola enumerates the manner in which other languages use the nasal metaphor. The Spanish phrase "*Cerrarle la puerta en las narices*" means "to slam the door on your nostrils," while the French, when unhappy, tend to "*faire in drôle de nez*," (make a funny nose). In an embarrassing situation, they don't say, "he's laughing in your face." They say, "*Il vous rit au nez*" (He laughs in your nose).

Look at Julius Caesar, Mark Anthony and Dante, they had noses that made the world fall on their knees and worship them. When Egypt was conquered, people went around smashing the noses of statues because noses symbolized pride. According to "Searchlights on Health: The Science of Eugenics," the Roman Nose "indicates a martial spirit, love of debate, resistance, and strong passions." Napoleon Bonaparte chose generals with large noses, not because great noses caused great minds, but because "the motive or powerful temperament" of an individual leads to both the great nose and the great mind. Sharp noses are signs of "a quick, clear, penetrating, searching, knowing, sagacious mind," while "straight, finely-formed Grecian noses" indicate harmonious characters. Flat noses "indicate flatness of mind and character, by indicating a poor, low organic structure." Broad noses, on the other hand, imply "great strength of constitution, and hearty animal passions."

I've recently found myself in a quandary as to whether my nose qualifies as broad or flat. An informal survey among friends has had doubtful results, for, as my friend David says, "You could look at it both ways—your nose is both flat and broad."

The one good thing about all these things is this: all character and mental flaws I possess are not my fault. My nose has condemned me from birth. As of today, I'm adding a No. 2 to my checklist of Things To Do Before I'm Thirty: 1. Get rich. 2. Get a nose job. 3. Dominate the world.

* * *

*E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com*

# Conversation on Jesus

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

PERHAPS TODAY, EASTER SUNDAY, IS THE right occasion to reflect on the meaning of the Resurrection, and the "real" message of Jesus—a message He brought not just to the people of His time, but to all people for all time.

Today, I offer this excerpt from the book "Backpack of a Jesus-Seeker...following in the footsteps of the original Jesus" by Carlos H. Abesamis, S.J.

The book, says Father Abesamis, "is a sharing of my study, reflection, and prayer on Jesus," adding that he hopes "the Jesus I have encountered through serious study and quiet prayer will have some meaning for you. In my case, this Jesus has turned my life around 180 degrees."

The message of the Jesus that Father Abesamis encountered, as recounted in the book, is that "justice and liberation was an essential component of the Kingdom of God and thus of the mission of Jesus...an integral part of the gospel of Jesus." While "social justice" as a term does not appear in the Scripture, Father Abesamis notes that "justice-compassion-fidelity" is found, which can be taken to mean "social justice" which to Jesus constituted the "weightier matters of religion."

Writes Father Abesamis: "the solid base upon which stands our 'Church of the Poor' is Jesus' proclamation of justice and liberation, couched in the biblical phrase 'good news to the poor'."

But for whom are this message and this core mission meant for? "Backpack of a Jesus-Seeker" actually takes the form of a conversation among three characters: Carl (the author), a Seeker and a backpack—yes a backpack—from which emerge nuggets of insight and wisdom. Here's what their conversation on "for whom" reveals:

* * *

**SEEKER: So far, the Kingdom of God is new world and a new history on earth, filled with life-blessings.**

**BACKPACK: Standing out among these life-blessings [are] justice and liberation of the poor.**

**CARL: What is left for us to fill out is this: And these blessings are for human beings (not disembodied souls)...**

**BACKPACK: ...and for the rest of creation (nature, the earth, birds, trees, etc.)**

**CARL AND SEEKER: Agreed!**

* * *

SEEKER: It seems safe to say that, according to the average understanding, the business of the Church is about souls, saving souls.

CARL: And the irony and the shock of it all is that Jesus is not at all interested in souls!

SEEKER: He is very interested in...

BACKPACK: He is very interested in the total well-being of the total human person (whether individually or collectively)...and the well-being of the rest of creation (earth, birds, rocks, plants).

* * *

**SEEKER: Actually, the concern of Jesus and of the biblical writers is more than implicit in our chat so far, isn't it?**

**CARL: Yes, so, in the beatitudes, the recipients of Kingdom-blessings are human beings, not souls...**

**SEEKER: ...the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, the meek, the pure in heart, the peacemaker are human beings, not souls.**

* * *

CARL: Scripture speaks not of souls being saved but of all reality—things in heaven and things on earth, humans and nature—being soaked with the Divine Energy.

BACKPACK: I love it when people take me along on nature trips.

And I really love this talk about not souls, but human beings, because as a backpack I find it comfortable hanging on to somebody's shoulders.

SEEKER: ...You will find it hard to hang on to a disembodied soul! Tsk. Tsk. The sight would be entertaining... or scary.

* * *

**CARL: And as for Isaiah and Jesus, do you see bodiless souls flitting around in Isaiah's and Jesus' Kingdom of God?**

**SEEKER: Not at all!**

**BACKPACK: Not at all indeed, because there are none! Isaiah's and Jesus' Kingdom of God is packed with flesh-and-blood people, not souls: the poor, the lame, the blind, the deaf, the leper, the oppressed, the slave, the dead, the captive, the land even!**

* * *

CARL: In the barrio fiesta of the Kingdom of God, can you imagine a bodiless soul sitting at the banquet table and eating *inihaw na dalag*?

* * *

**SEEKER AND BACKPACK: So, God's concern is not focused on souls but on whole persons.**

**CARL: Yes. We know somebody, who after He graduated from this world, did not become a disembodied soul or ghost! He was a full-bodied, full-blooded human being, radiant and glorious—and He ate *inihaw na tilapia*!**

**BACKPACK: Yes, you mean—Jesus, the Risen Jesus! He ate broiled fish!**

**CARL: And like the Risen Jesus, a resurrected person is not a disembodied soul!**

**BACKPACK: And a resurrected person in all radiance and freshness is what God wishes for us!**

# A gospel for the postmodern

**PUBLIC LIVES**

*Randy David*

FOR TWO HOURS LAST SUNDAY, I WATCHED with great interest the National Geographic documentary on the lost Gospel of Judas. I have since read the English translation of this Coptic text. Unlike my brother, Fr. Ambo David, I am not a biblical scholar, and so I will turn to him for historical context when we meet today, Easter Sunday.

Strictly from a sociological standpoint, I think the discovery of the Gospel of Judas makes Christianity a far more interesting religion than what centuries of metaphysical theology has made of it. It restores to it a powerful historicity. It makes it less dogmatic, and it creates room for more interpretative readings of the Scriptures.

The Judas gospel brings us back to those scattered faith communities at the dawn of Christianity that drew their inspiration from the telling of the life and work of Jesus Christ. Numerous gospels were then in existence, reflecting the specific longings and aspirations of the various early peoples who became the first Christians. Many of these vanished from memory as Christianity acquired a dominant place in the world.

At one point in its growth, the leaders of the Church decided to standardize its teachings. They chose certain gospels from the many that were circulating. This could not have been a smooth and orderly process; it is likely that in the course of the centuries, some books were added to the Bible and some were dropped. This makes sense if one thinks of Christianity as a living religion.

The Judas gospel is fascinating because it shows how some of the early Christians regarded their religion. To the Gnostics, for example, Christianity was a form of secret knowledge, an optic through which one could get a glimpse of the invisible world.

In this lost gospel, the disciples are shown vying with one another for Jesus' special attention. Among them, it is Judas Iscariot who seems to manifest the greatest potential. Jesus notices him and takes him aside. "Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal." Jesus then tells him about "a great and boundless realm, whose extent no generation of angels has seen, [in which] there is [a] great invisible [Spirit], which no eye of an angel has ever seen, no thought of the heart has ever comprehended, and it was never called by any name." (The National Geographic Society, 2006)

The recovery of the Judas gospel fits well with the emerging spirituality of a secular and less authoritarian age—the age of interpretation rather than of dogma. It is probably threatening only to those who insist on an authoritative reading of the Scriptures and claim an exclusive franchise for such reading.

Apart from the fact that this gospel depicts Judas in a good light, showing him to be Jesus' loyal confidant in the fulfillment of the prophecy of his redemptive death on the cross, the image that is projected of Jesus is itself quite extraordinary. He sometimes appears before his baffled disciples in the form of a child. He laughs at their puzzlement. He tells them: "How do you know me? Truly [I] say to you, no generation of the people that are among you will know me."

The writer Umberto Eco has a term for this. He calls it the "religiosity of the void." Instead of a knowable personal God, what draws the faithful is a God who "cannot be named, not because he cannot be described with any of the categories we use to designate the things that are .... He hides himself, is ineffable, can be drawn upon only through negative theology, is the sum of what cannot be said of him; in speaking of him, we celebrate our ignorance and he is named at most as vortex, abyss, desert, solitude, silence, absence."

This kind of spirituality, Eco believes, is becoming widespread in those societies where neither institutional religion nor revolutionary ideology nor positive science has provided any useful guide to human progress. In short, this is the spirituality of a crisis-ridden age. Eco thinks of it in very dark terms, as the cousin of various forms of neo-millenarianism, which in some instances project "a mystical scenario, requiring suffering testimony, martyrdom, purifying bloodbath."

Eco's pessimism, however, is countered by another Italian, Gianni Vattimo. It is ironic that some of the most creative analyses of the crisis of institutional religion are coming out of Italy, at the very seat of the Holy See. Here, where the future of religion is endlessly debated, this Heideggerian scholar who remains a steadfast Christian has stood out as an optimistic voice for the compelling message of Christianity.

Against the brooding scenario that his compatriot depicts, Vattimo describes what it means to be a non-metaphysical Christian: "The commitment to Christ's teaching derives from the cogency of the message itself; he who believes has understood, felt, intuited that his word is a 'word of eternal life'." To Vattimo, that message—"the only truth revealed to us by the Scriptures, the one that can never be demythologized in the course of time—since it is not an experimental, logical, or metaphysical statement but a call to practice—is the truth of love, of charity."

It would be interesting to see what role the lost gospels will play in the re-imagining of Christianity. The Gospel of Judas appears to purge guilt from religion by contextualizing it. If the place vacated by guilt is filled in by love, the effect can only be a more inclusive faith.

* * *

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

# Revisiting the SC ruling on Pirma

THE BATTLE OVER THE LEGALITY OF THE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN BEING SUPPORTED BY THE ARROYO administration to change the 1987 Constitution has reached the Supreme Court. Abakada, a party-list group, has petitioned the high court to revisit its 1997 ruling (Santiago v. Comelec) in which it said that Republic Act No. 6735, or the Initiative and Referendum Act, was inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution.

The ruling stopped Pirma (People's Initiative for Reform, Modernization and Action) from pushing through with its campaign to amend the Constitution to allow then President Fidel Ramos to run for reelection.

Opponents of the current signature campaign that calls for a parliamentary form of government claim that the Supreme Court has enjoined the Commission on Elections from taking part in an initiative on Charter change until an enabling law is passed.

Under the legal doctrine of "stare decisis," the Supreme Court should uphold its decision in Santiago v. Comelec because "the facts in 1997 and 2006 are substantially the same," said Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

However, newly appointed Supreme Court Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco said the "high court can abandon an existing doctrine and come up with a new one."

Of the 15 justices who took part in the Santiago v. Comelec ruling, only two are still with the Supreme Court—Artemio Panganiban, now the chief justice, and Reynato Puno, both of whom cast a dissenting vote.

Talk of the Town is running an article of Panganiban, which formed part of "Battles in the Supreme Court" (1998), a book he wrote when he was still an associate justice, to give the public an idea of his stand on the "people's initiative" to amend the Constitution.

## The Cha-cha battles

**By Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban**

DURING MY [FIRST] THREE YEARS in the Court, the most controversial cases that generated much public and media attention were the so-called Charter change (Cha-cha) suits, namely, Santiago v. Commission on Elections, and People's Initiative for Reform, Modernization and Action (Pirma) v. Comelec.

### Santiago v. Comelec

In the first case, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Alexander Padilla and Maria Isabel Ongpin sought to prohibit the Comelec and Jesus Delfin from conducting a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, an amendment that would have enabled an incumbent President to run for reelection.

In a March 19, 1997 decision written by Justice Davide (and fully concurred in by a total of eight justices), the Court ruled that Republic Act No. 6735, the law regulating the people's right of initiative, was "inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution and to have failed to provide sufficient standard for subordinate legislation."

#### Dissenters

Justices Puno, Francisco and I wrote dissenting opinions in which we were joined by Justices Melo and Mendoza. Justice Padilla did not take part because he was related to petitioner Alexander Padilla. Vitug rendered a separate opinion, in which he voted "for granting the instant petition," but pointed out that "the earlier temporary restraining order issued by the Court did not proscribe the exercise by the Pedrosas of their right to campaign for constitutional amendments."

The dissenters agreed with the ruling of the majority that the Comelec could not entertain a petition to initiate amendments to the Constitution through a people's initiative, until and unless such petition could show that it carried the number of signatures required by the fundamental law; that is, at least 12 percent of all registered voters in the Philippines, with at least 3 percent in every legislative district. But they vehemently disagreed with the thesis of the majority that RA 6735 was "inadequate" or "insufficient."

Puno said "that [since] the intent of RA No. 6735 is to implement the people's initiative to amend the Constitution, it is our bounden duty to interpret the law as it was intended by the legislature." He argued that the Pedrosas could not be stopped by the Court from exercising their constitutional right to initiate amendments, stressing that the tribunal "cannot seal the lips of people who are pro-change but not those who are anti-change without converting the debate on Charter change into a sterile talkathon."

In my dissent, I said that the ruling of the majority unduly restricted the people's right to amend the Constitution through their own initiative, viz:

#### Too sweeping

"With all due respect, I find the majority's position all too sweeping and all too extremist. It is equivalent to burning the whole house to exterminate the rats and to killing the patient to relieve him of pain. What Citizen Delfin wants the Comelec to do we should reject. But we should not thereby preempt any future effort to exercise the right of initiative correctly and judiciously. The fact that the Delfin Petition proposes a misuse of initiative does not justify a ban against its proper use. Indeed, there is a right way to do the right thing at the right time and for the right reason."

Totally distraught by the concept of "insufficient" law propounded by the majority, I asked my research staff to look into treatises and precedents to shed light on this rather novel concept, but they found no credible authorities. I thought that such a new theory of constitutional law should not diminish the people's right to an initiative, which was after all an institutionalization of "people power," the political process that made the Philippines the talk of the world.

By way of epilogue, I concluded:

"Initiative, like referendum and recall, is a new and treasured feature of the Filipino constitutional system. All three are institutionalized legacies of the world-admired Edsa people power. Like elections and plebiscites, they are hallowed expressions of popular sovereignty. They are sacred democratic rights of our people to be used as their final weapons against political excesses, opportunism, inaction, oppression and misgovernance; as well as their reserved instruments to exact transparency, accountability and faithfulness from their chosen leaders. While, on the one hand, their misuse and abuse must be resolutely struck down, on the other, their legitimate exercise should be carefully nurtured and zealously protected."

Not satisfied with the Court's ruling, the respondents filed separate motions for reconsideration (MR). Six members of the Court (Chief Justice Narvasa and JJ. Regalado, Davide, Romero, Bellosillo and Kapunan) voted to deny the motion. Another six (JJ. Melo, Puno, Mendoza, Francisco, Hermosisima and I) voted to grant it. Padilla was on sick leave, Torres inhibited himself from participation, while Vitug "maintained his opinion that the matter is not ripe for judicial adjudication." Since the motions failed to get a majority vote from the 13 justices participating in the deliberation, they were "denied with finality."

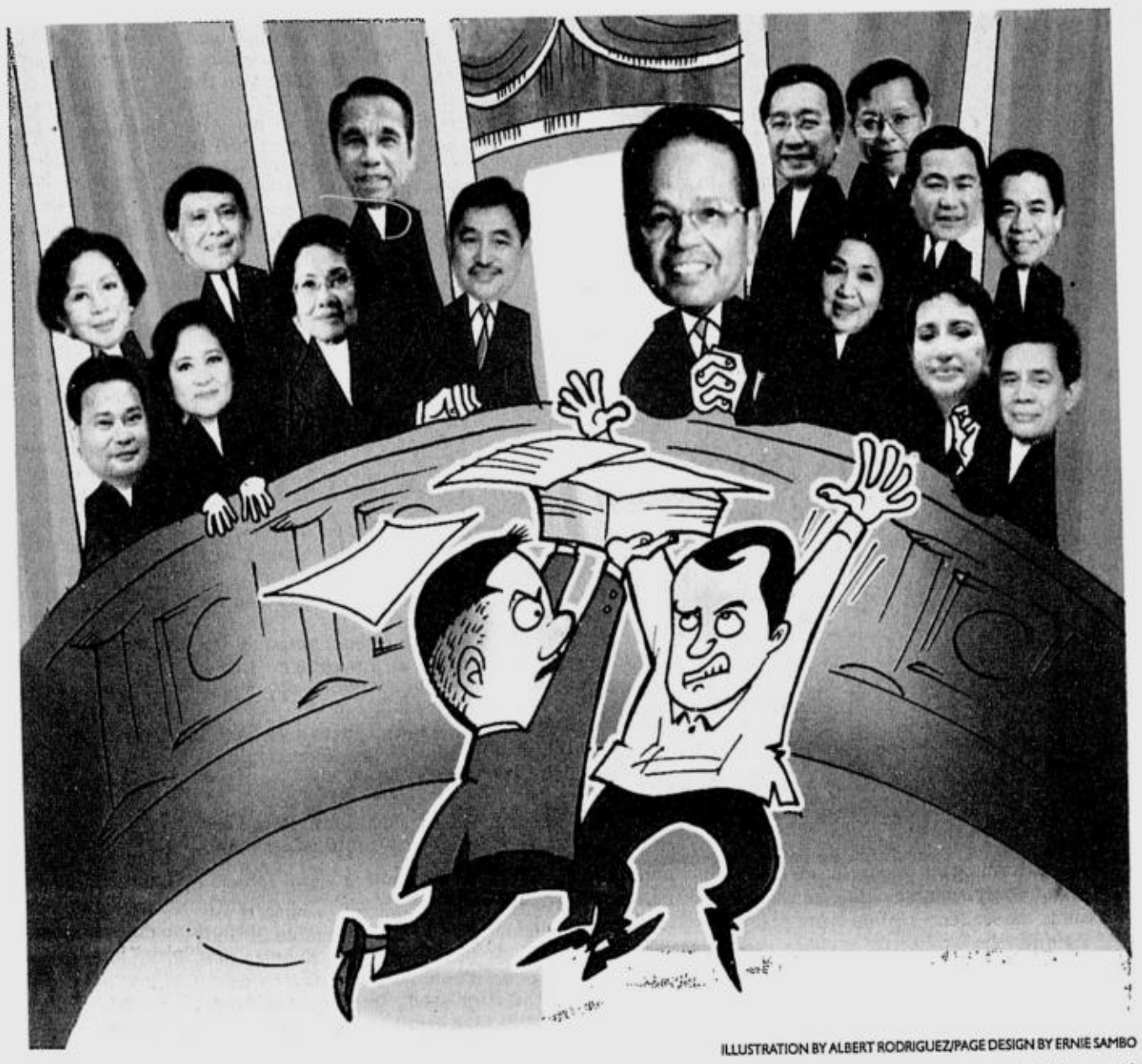

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ/PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Davide, Puno, Francisco and Hermosisima wrote separate opinions on the MRs.

Davide clarified that in declaring RA 6735 to be inadequate, the Court really meant that it was unconstitutional for failing to comply with the completeness and "sufficient standard" tests in purporting to delegate a delegable legislative power. Puno, on the other hand, stressed that the clear intent of Congress in enacting RA 6735 was to implement the provisions of the Constitution granting the people a new right, that of initiating and approving amendments to the Constitution. Such intent, he said, the Court had a duty to effectuate.

### Pirma v. Comelec

But the razor-thin vote denying the MRs did not daunt Pirma, led by spouses Alberto and Carmen Pedrosa, from pursuing the people's constitutional right to propose amendments to the Constitution. On June 23, 1997, Pirma filed a new petition before the Comelec, this time accompanied by nearly six million signatures, to show compliance with the constitutional requirement (of at least 12 percent of all the registered voters nationwide with at least 3 percent in each legislative district). However, on July 8, 1997, the Comelec dismissed the petition "in accordance with the permanent restraining order of the Honorable Supreme Court" earlier issued in Santiago. On July 25, 1997, Pirma elevated the matter to the Supreme Court, accusing the Comelec of grave abuse of discretion (1) in dismissing its petition and (2) in declaring RA 6735 "inadequate to cover its system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution."

In a minute Resolution dated Sept. 23, 1997, "the Court ruled, first, by unanimous vote, that no grave abuse of discretion could be attributed to the public respondent Comelec in dismissing the petition." Regarding the Court's ruling that RA 6735 was insufficient, seven members of the Court (CJ Narvasa and JJ. Regalado, Davide, Romero, Bellosillo, Kapunan and Torres) voted that "there was no need for re-examination of the second issue." Vitug agreed with them for the reason that "the case at bar is not the proper vehicle for the purpose."

#### Re-examination

The five who disagreed with the majority (JJ. Melo, Puno, Francisco, Hermosisima and I) opined that there was a need for such re-examination. Justice Mendoza was on leave. separate opinions were written by Davide, Bellosillo, Vitug, Kapunan, Francisco and myself.

Davide opined that the elements of *res judicata* had set in. He said that Santiago v. Comelec actually included, as respondents, Jesus Delfin and spouses Alberto and Carmen Pedrosa, all in their capacities as founding members of Pirma. In Pirma, Delfin was excluded, while the Pedrosas were joined by several others as petitioners. Bellosillo iterated the doctrine that a "party may not evade the application of the rule on *res judicata* by simply including additional parties in the subsequent case and by not including as parties in the later case persons who were parties in the previous suit."

Other than the substantial identity of parties, the Pirma and Delfin petitions had only one cause of action and relief sought—to set in motion the process of amending the Constitution through the people's initiative.

My points, revolved around one particular statement in my dissent in Santiago: "there is a right way to do the right thing at the right time for the right reason."

The people's initiative as a means of proposing amendments to our Constitution was the right thing that citizens could avail themselves of in order to articulate their will.

RA 6735 and Comelec Resolution 2300 provided the sufficient authority, or the right way, to implement this novel provision in our fundamental law. Both adequately laid down the requisites of a petition for initiative and the procedure that the Comelec should undertake relative thereto. At the same time, I stressed that the adequacy of the law would not ipso facto validate the Pirma petition and automatically lead to a plebiscite. There was a need to address at least four other questions:

(1) Does the proposed change constitute an amendment, not a revision, of the Constitution?

(2) Which registry of voters will be used to verify the signatures in the petition?

(3) Are the signatories to the petition the true source of the clamor for the proposed Charter change, and;

(4) Are the six million signatures attached to the Pirma petition genuine and verifiable?

#### Ultimate weapon

Initiative and referendum, I wrote, were the "ultimate weapon[s] of the people to negate government malfeasance and misfeasance." I stressed that the right of initiative belonged to the people, not to the government and its minions, for whom the avenue for proposing Charter changes was either a constitutional convention or Congress turned into a constituent assembly.

Thus, the proposed change—the right reason—must originate from the will of the people themselves. Furthermore, the exercise of initiative must be at the appropriate or right time. Under the Constitution, amendments thereto may not be introduced "within five years following [its] ratification x x x nor oftener that once every five years thereafter." The five-year prohibition was already inoperative. However, given the circumstance then prevailing—less than eight months to go before the May 1998 national elections—I pointed out that there was no more time to give due course to Pirma's petition proposing to lift the term limits of elective officials in order to allow incumbents to seek reelection in the said polls. In any event, this lack of time should not have prevented the Court from declaring that RA 6735 was sufficient to implement the people's right of initiative.

#### No partisan alignment

Some critics accused henchmen of then President Fidel V. Ramos of pressuring or even intimidating some justices to favor Pirma. Indeed, if all the Ramos appointees lined up their votes solidly, Pirma would have won a re-examination of the novel Santiago doctrine of statutory insufficiency. But Kapunan, a Ramos appointee, consistently voted against Pirma and Delfin; and, in the final vote on Sept. 23, 1997, three Ramos appointees—Vitug, Kapunan and Torres—sided with the majority, thereby decisively ending the controversy and the vicious but erroneous charge of partisan alignments in the Court.

Furthermore, even the dissenters did not give unqualified support to Pirma. In my case I explained, in both of my separate opinions dated March 19, 1997 and Sept. 23, 1997, that while I disagreed most certainly with the theory of statutory insufficiency espoused by the majority, I did not say that, as a necessary consequence, I favored an outright grant of the Pirma petition. I carefully elucidated:

"[M]y position upholding the adequacy of RA 6735 x x x will not ipso facto validate the Pirma petition and automatically lead to a plebiscite to amend the Constitution. Far from it. Among others, Pirma must still satisfactorily hurdle the following searching issues:

"1. Does the proposed change—the lifting of the term limits of elective officials—constitute a mere amendment to and not a revision of the Constitution?

"2. Which registry of voters will be used to verify the signatures in the petition? This question is relevant considering that under RA 8189, the old registry of voters used in the 1995 national elections was voided after the barangay elections on May 12, 1997, while the new list may be used starting only in the elections of May 1998.

"3. Does the clamor for the proposed change in the Constitution really emanate from the people who signed the petition for initiative? Or is it the beneficiaries of term extension who are in fact orchestrating such move to advance their own political self-interests?

"4. Are the six million signatures genuine and verifiable? Do they really belong to qualified warm bodies comprising at least 12 percent of the registered voters nationwide, of which every legislative district is represented by at least 3 percent of the registered voters therein?"

#### Faith in initiative

That was why in the epilogue to my separate opinion dated Sept. 23, 1997, I stressed my faith in initiative as a democratic method by which our people may express their will. My position on the entire Cha-cha controversy was best expressed by my closing statement, which I quote in full:

"I believe in democracy—in our people's natural right to determine our own destiny.

"I believe in the process of initiative as a democratic method of enabling our people to express their will and chart their history. Initiative is an alternative to bloody revolution, internal chaos and civil strife. It is an inherent right of the people—as basic as the right to elect, the right to self-determination and the right to individual liberties. I believe that Filipinos have the ability and the capacity to rise above themselves, to use this right of initiative wisely and maturely, and to choose what is best for themselves and their posterity.

"Such beliefs, however, should not be equated with a desire to perpetuate a particular official or group of officials in power. Far from it. Such perpetuation is anathema to democracy. My firm conviction that there is an adequate law implementing the constitutional right of initiative does not ipso facto result in the victory of the Pirma petition or of any proposed constitutional change. There are, after all, sufficient safeguards to guarantee the proper use of such constitutional right and to forestall its misuse and abuse.

First, initiative cannot be used to revise the Constitution, only to amend it.

Second, the petitioners' signatures must be validated against an existing list of voters and/or voters' identification cards.

Third, initiative is a reserve power of and by the people, not of incumbent officials and their machinators.

Fourth and most important of all, the signatures must be verified as real and genuine; not concocted, fictitious or fabricated. The only legal way to do this is to enable the Comelec to conduct a nationwide verification process as mandated by the Constitution and the law. Such verification, it bears stressing, is subject to review by this Court.

"There were, by the most generous estimate, only a million people who gathered at Edsa in 1986, and yet they changed the history of our country. Pirma claims six times that number, not just from the National Capital Region but from all over the country. Is this claim true? Or is it just an empty boast? By preventing the verification of this claim through the invention of its novel theory of statutory insufficiency, the Court's majority has stifled the only legal method of determining whether Pirma is real or not, whether there is indeed a popular clamor to lift term limits of elected officials, and whether six million voters want to initiate amendments to their most basic law.

In suppressing a judicial answer to such questions, the Court may have unwittingly yielded to Pirma the benefit of the legal presumption of legality and regularity. In its misplaced zeal to exterminate the rats, it burned down the whole house. It unceremoniously divested the people of a basic constitutional right.

"In the ultimate, the mission of the judiciary is to discover truth and to make it prevail. This mission is undertaken not only to resolve the vagaries of present events but also to build the pathways of tomorrow. The sum total of the entire process of adversarial litigation is the verity of facts and the application of law thereto. By the majority cop-out in this mission of discovery, our country and our people have been deprived not only of a basic constitutional right, as earlier noted, but also of the judicial opportunity to verify the truth.

**Santiago v. Comelec**
(March 19, 1997)

**X Now reversing its stand on Constitutional change**

- Davide, Hilario Jr. (retired 12/05)
- Narvasa, Andres (11/98)
- Regalado, Florenz (10/98)
- Romero, Flerida Ruth (8/99)
- Bellosillo, Josue (11/03)
- Kapunan, Santiago (8/02)
- Hermosisima, Regino Jr. (10/97)
- Torres, Justo Jr. (11/97)

**✓ Yes**

- Melo, Jose (5/02)
- Mendoza, Vicente (4/03)
- Francisco, Ricardo (2/98)
- Puno, Reynato
- Panganiban, Artemio

**Abstain**

- Padilla, Teodoro (retired 8/97) took no part; related to a co-petitioner and co-counsel of the petitioners.
- Vitug, Jose (7/04) Vitug said that his "non-vote" should be counted against the motions for reconsideration.

**SUPREME COURT JUSTICES**
(incumbent)

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- Reynato Puno
- Leonardo Quisumbing
- Consuelo Ynares-Santiago
- Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez
- Antonio Carpio
- Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez
- Renato Corona
- Conchita Carpio-Morales
- Romeo Callejo Sr.
- Adolfo Azcuna
- Dante Tinga
- Minita Chico-Nazario
- Cancio Garcia
- Presbitero Velasco Jr.

PDI RESEARCH

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is accompanied by nuns during her visit to the Congregation of the Religious of Assumption, the second church she went to with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo as part of her "Semana Santa Visita Iglesias" in Baguio City. LYN RILLON

# Ex-immigration official disbarred

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESterday disbarred a former Bureau of Immigration lawyer for conning an American missionary out of $20,000 eleven years ago.

In addition, the High Court has asked the Office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice to file criminal charges against Fred L. Gutierrez for duping Gisela Huyssen, a member of the World Mission of Jesus, out of her money supposedly as a requirement for the issuance of visas to the woman and her three sons.

In a 16-page decision, the court ordered Gutierrez to return the money, with interest from 1995, when he obtained the money from the missionary.

The court said Gutierrez's conduct in office "betrays the integrity and good moral character required from all lawyers, especially from one occupying a high public office."

"A lawyer in public office is expected not only to refrain from any act or omission which might tend to lessen the trust and confidence of the citizenry in government; he must also uphold the dignity of the legal profession at all times and observe a high standard of honesty and fair dealing," the high court said.

"Otherwise said, a lawyer in government service is a keeper of the public faith and is burdened with high a degree of social responsibility, perhaps higher than his brethren in private practice," the court added.

Court records show that in 1995, Huyssen and her sons—all American citizens—applied for Philippine visas at what was then known as the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation.

Gutierrez told them that for their visa applications to be approved, they needed to deposit money that would be refunded after one year.

Believing that Philippine laws required such payment, Huyssen deposited a total of $20,000 with Gutierrez on six different occasions from April 1995 to April 1996.

But after one year, Gutierrez failed to return the money despite repeated demands from Huyssen.

Gutierrez denied the accusations, claiming that he did not misappropriate the money but turned it over to a certain lawyer named Mendoza who he said had assisted the Huyssens. But Mendonza had since died, Gutierrez said.

# Arroyo commutes all death sentences

From page A1

death convicts—1,174 men and 31 women. Seventeen were listed for execution by lethal injection as of April 6, but their names and schedules are confidential, according to the administrative office of the Bureau of Corrections.

The top three crimes of those on death row are rape (471), murder (192) and kidnapping for ransom (157).

Other cases involve, among others, robbery with homicide (72), rape with homicide (71), violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act (41), and kidnapping with serious illegal detention (38).

Ms Arroyo's new policy is a big step forward from her imposition of a moratorium on the death penalty upon her ascent to the presidency in 2001.

She appeared to waver on the moratorium in 2003, when she declared that she would allow the death penalty for convicted drug lords and kidnappers.

But no death sentence has been carried out so far under her watch.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has repeatedly called on the government to repeal the death penalty, claiming that capital punishment had not been an effective deterrent to crime.

The abolition of the death penalty requires an act of Congress.

Aside from addressing the Catholic Church's concern over the death penalty, the President touched on the political crisis in her Easter message.

"Our beloved bishops spoke of the people's fear of more chaotic politics even as they struggle to make a decent living. We seek above all the nation's salvation from poverty and discord," she said.

Capital punishment was reimposed in 1994 through Republic Act No. 7659, covering such heinous crimes as treason, plunder, murder, kidnapping, rape and importation/sale of prohibited drugs.

Through RA 8177 of 1996, lethal injection was designated as the method of carrying out the maximum penalty.

Seven inmates were put to death between 1999 and 2000 during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada, as part of his administration's anticrime drive.

The first and last to be executed were rapist Leo Echegaray, on Feb. 9, 1999, and another rapist, Alex Bartolome, on Jan. 4, 2000.

Later yielding to pressure from the Catholic Church and human rights groups, Estrada declared a moratorium on further executions.

*With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, AFP and PDI Research*

# Missionary leader shows RP global religious clout

From page A1

which provides documentation of religious missionary work across the globe by the SVD and other international religious orders. The office is headed by a Spanish Dominican priest, Carlos Rodriguez, who often banters with his SVD confreres.

Pernia said Filipino religious missionaries working outside of the Philippines should number some 1,500. The last survey done 12 years ago, he said, showed some 800 Filipinos. About 160 Filipino members of the SVD are stationed abroad.

Filipino religious presence abroad, however, cannot be limited to the Filipino religious.

"The Filipino overseas workers also provide a certain religious presence," Pernia said. "Here in Italy, for instance, stories abound of Filipino domestic workers influencing whole families to return to the practice of the Catholic faith."

But Pernia lamented that overseas Filipino workers "have no pastoral care at all or have only the very minimum of pastoral care."

"It is essential that this deficiency is addressed as soon as possible by the Churches of both the host country and the country of origin," he said.

## Prominent religious

Other prominent Filipino religious in the Vatican are Father Quirico Pedregoza, who is deputy for the Asia-Pacific to the Master of the Order of Preachers (or Dominicans), and Sr. Regina Kuizon, the communications head of the Religious of the Good Shepherd. *(See related story on Page A1)*

The Filipino Dominican Edmund Nantes was the treasurer of the Dominican Roman curia until he was elected in 2004 as prior provincial of the Filipino Dominicans.

Filipino religious are spread out all over the world as missionaries, often in harsh and inhospitable environments.

"We should feel proud and happy about Filipinos making important contributions to missionary work abroad," said Marist Brother Manuel de Leon, vice chair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines. "They do their work despite difficulties and challenges, especially since they are situated in mission fields where Catholics are a minority and sometimes persecuted."

## 7th largest in the world

The Society of the Divine Word (Societas Verbi Divini in Latin, or SVD, the initials attached to all members' names) is the seventh largest Catholic congregation for men in the world. With more than 6,000 members, it is present in many countries, notably in Africa and the Americas.

In the Philippines, the SVD is the largest male congregation, with some 600 members, a number of active bishops in the hierarchy, and several mission posts and schools, notably the University of San Carlos in Cebu and the Divine Word College in several provinces.

Members of the SVD and similar congregations for men and women are called "religious," as contrasted with the "secular" or the "regular" clergy that are based in the dioceses and work under the bishops.

The religious form a community established in order to promote their founders' charism or chosen apostolic focus. They live lives of holiness and apostolate work, taking vows of poverty, obedience and chastity.

## Founded by a saint

In canon law, the SVD and the other orders and congregations—Dominicans, Franciscans, Carmelites, Benedictines, Marists and Good Shepherd sisters—are called "institutes of consecrated life."

The SVD was founded in the late 19th century by the German priest Arnold Jansen, one of the last saints to be canonized by John Paul II before he died last year.

Jansen wanted a congregation that would focus on missionary work and spread "the divine word" through active ministry, publishing and running Catholic schools.

The SVD missionaries arrived in the Philippines during the early part of the American period and, unlike older European orders, pursued relentlessly a program to build native vocations.

In due time, the SVD became more of an "Asian" order, with Indians, Indonesians and Filipinos forming the bulk of the membership. It became only a matter of time for an Asian to assume the leadership of an order that originated from the Old World.

"It is still a mystery to me that I was chosen superior general (in 2000)," Pernia told the INQUIRER.

"Others, however, say that I was the natural choice since I was vice superior general in the previous term, 1994-2000. I think the society was looking for a superior general coming from Asia since a little more than half of the members now originate from Asia."

## 'Why me?'

"But why me among the many Asians?" he asked. "Perhaps partly because I had acquired greater international visibility over the years."

Like many top Filipino religious, Pernia has a cosmopolitan outlook, having studied in Rome and acquired knowledge of foreign languages.

He was appointed to several international study commissions of his order. Later on, while serving as superior of the SVDs in the Visayas, he was elected vice superior general in 1994. Since then, he has been based in Rome but constantly travels, visiting SVD missions all over the world.

Pernia denied he was bringing a uniquely Filipino management style to the SVD.

"I make my decisions in accordance with the general spirit of the Society and specific norms of our constitutions," he said. "But I would hope that in the longer term, some more significant changes will take place."

More relevant than management style perhaps is whether there's a Filipino or Asian "way of doing mission."

But the question comes with a caveat.

"With the majority of our missionaries now originating from Asia, I have always wondered whether we are just replacing personnel from one cultural origin with personnel from another cultural origin—with the work being done and the way of doing it remaining basically the same," Pernia said.

## From conquest to dialogue

Thus, there's a need to come up with new missionary modes to improve or refine accepted traditions that are often of European origins.

"My hope, indeed, is that the emergence of Asian missionaries results in a different way of doing mission—that is, from the 'conquest mode' of mission in the past (where the Christian Gospel was often merely imposed on people, sometimes in a violent way) to the 'dialogue mode' of mission (where the Gospel is made to enter into respectful dialogue with the cultures of people)."

Related to the dialogue mode is doing mission in which the missionary draws from the resources of his own unique culture.

Pernia explained: "Asian missionaries seem to do mission with a flavor of their own—for instance, the Indonesians with their simplicity of lifestyle and closeness to ordinary people, the Indians with their contemplative spirit and prayerful approach to mission work, and the Filipinos with their strong sense of community and spirit of celebration."

As an international and multicultural order, the SVD has to be fully integrated culturally.

## One heart, many faces

"How to promote diversity and maintain unity in the Society is one important challenge today," Pernia said.

"Our motto during the canonization of our founder two years ago was 'One Heart, Many Faces.' The challenge is precisely how to form this one heart without suppressing the multiplicity of faces, that is, how to nurture unity in diversity in our society," Pernia said.

There's also the old religious challenge of being "in the world" without being "of the world," he added.

"The globalized world offers both opportunities and challenges," he said. "How to remain open to the world without being seduced by its consumerist attractions. How to be responsive to the challenges of the globalized world without being co-opted by its spirit. How to remain relevant to the globalized world without losing our prophetic edge."

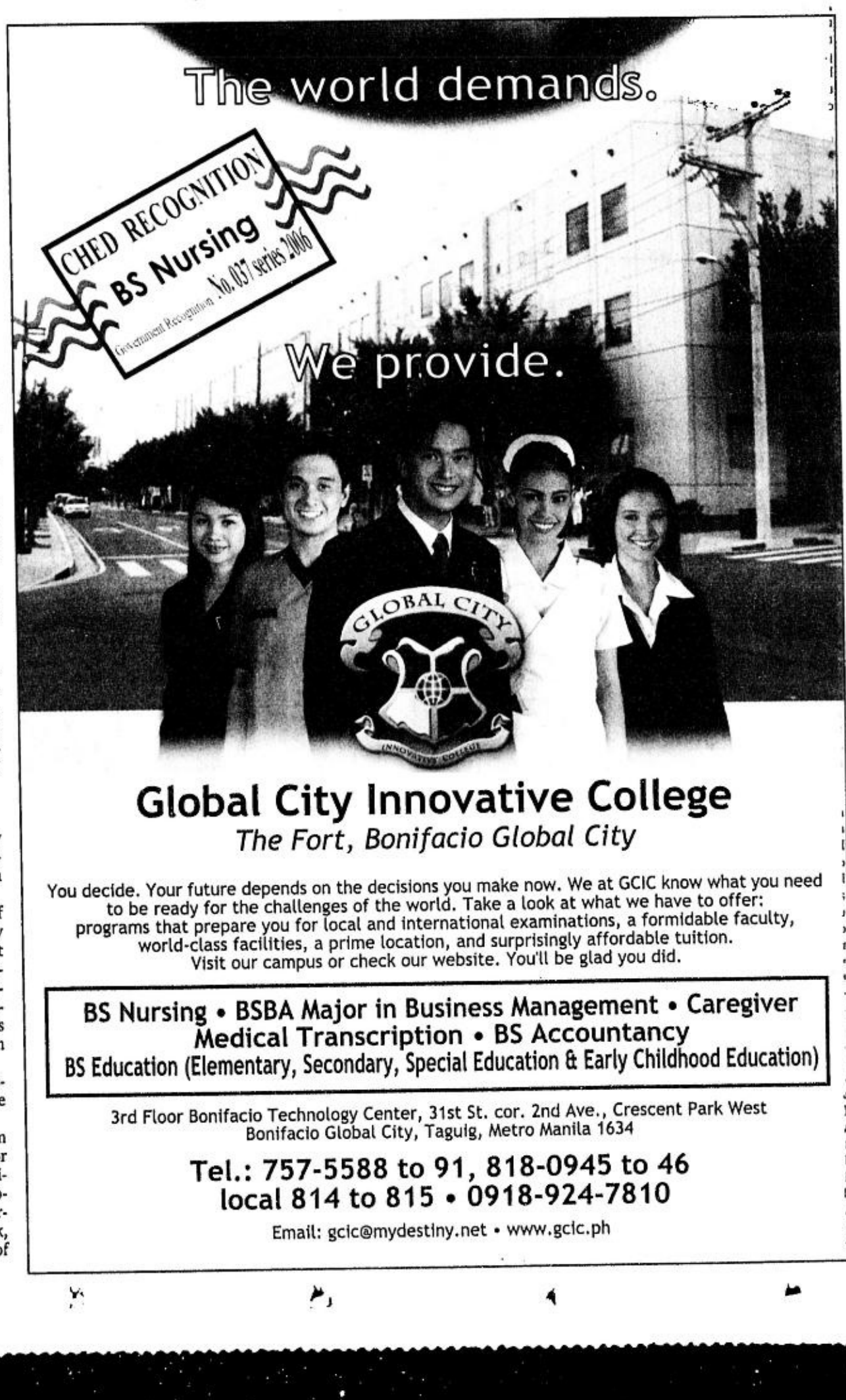
## Filipino way

"Ultimately, this will require the development of a profound spirituality of openness to the world and rootedness in the Spirit," he added.

One reason Filipinos are effective missionaries is because of their "historical experience of colonization and our socioeconomic condition of poverty," Pernia said.

"Filipino missionaries will tend to approach mission not from a position of power or superiority but from a position of powerlessness and humility," he explained.

"The Filipino missionary will not preach the Gospel from a position where he looks down on the people. Rather, he or she will pass over to the people and be genuinely one with them in their condition of oppression and poverty, discrimination and loss of identity, suffering and sin."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# *German stabbed dead by suspected robbers*

SUSPECTED ROBBERS STABBED to death a German man at his home in Pampanga before fleeing with the victims' cash and jewelry, police said Saturday.

Hans Klaus Karl Holz, 51, from the town of Schonau, Germany, sustained multiple stab wounds to his body and died before dawn Friday inside his apartment in Angeles City, 70 km northwest of Manila.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, the regional police chief, said Holz'S Filipino wife Myrna told investigators that her husband was watching television when she went to bed around midnight Thursday.

She said she was roused from her sleep when two unidentified men quickly hogtied her with an electrical cord and covered her face with a shirt while she was still lying in bed.

She said when the men left, she cried for help and found her husband's body inside the room.

The assailants fled with cash, jewelry, three cellular phones, and a digital camera all worth more than P100,000 she added.

Lapinid has ordered a thorough investigation. *AP*

# Magdalo officers pursue studies under detention

From page A1

ing while detained in a small house at the Villamor Air Base, pursuing higher education through distance learning was an attempt to make up for lost opportunities.

By simply studying again, they had opted for the best alternative to the nearly three years that they had lost in field and combat experience: they had chosen to sharpen their minds, preparing for a new, yet still unknown battlefield, if and when they are finally free.

## They're still comrades

It took the Air Force a year before finally granting the officers permission to study while in detention, and provide them Internet access, a major requirement by the university, right inside the house that serves as their detention cell at Villamor.

The Air Force leadership hoped that through education, these "misled officers would be enlightened," Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, explained in a recent interview.

"They are still our comrade-in-arms," said the PAF spokesperson.

All 11 students earned good grades during the first semester, said Dr. Melinda Bandalaria, the UP Open University Registrar. Most of them got an average grade of 1.25.

"I have higher expectations from them, compared to our other students because they are graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. And also, they have more time to study," Bandalaria told the INQUIRER.

"They are all innately intelligent," she added.

## Internet access cut

But the political events in February prompted the Air Force to cut Internet access to the detained officers as a "preventive measure," Padilla said.

The Magdalo group was again implicated in what President Macapagal-Arroyo described as an attempt by a "cabal" of communist guerrillas and rebel soldiers to unseat her on Feb. 24.

The INQUIRER request to interview the junior officers for this story was denied by the Air Force, citing security measures.

But in an interview in January, the junior officers had openly talked about their studies and the Internet access that they had enjoyed.

Asked if he and his comrades still talked about Oakwood with friends and relatives in e-mails or online discussions, Acedillo, 29, who served as the group's spokesperson, had said: "It's tempting but in our case, we don't want to abuse a facility which has been accorded to us."

## Detention not an obstacle

Padilla was among those who had advised the officers, whose ages range from mid-20s to early 30s, not to allow their detention to be an obstacle in their lives.

The officers also got encouragement from their families and were motivated by a TV feature on convicts who studied and earned degrees from inside the New Bilibid Prisons, a source close to the group told the INQUIRER.

A 12th Air Force officer also detained in the Oakwood case—2nd Lt. Jigger Montallana, 25—opted not to enroll at the UP Open since he had completed a course at a Cebu college, said the source, who requested anonymity, citing strict security measures.

Bandalaria admitted being apprehensive when she had to administer their admission test. A former student activist, she has "preconceived ideas about military men."

## Impressed by politeness

"After spending my first half day with them, I was impressed by their politeness and respect to superiors even in the detention center and their intelligence," Bandalaria said.

Right off, she said, it was apparent that they had this "passion to do good for the country."

"Most of them said they wanted to have options when their term inside detention ends," she said. Others said they wanted to acquire business skills which they could apply even while detained so as to help augment their families' incomes. Some planned to teach.

In fact, another detainee, 1st Lt. Billy Pascua, has completed his Personal Entrepreneurial Development course, a nonformal program, and has started a small but thriving business with his family, she said.

"They can converse very well about a lot of subjects because they read a lot," she noted.

The reading list included Dan Brown, Og Mandino, Alvin Tofler, Robert Ludlum, Readers' Digest condensed books, The Purpose Driven Life, leadership books, and books about famous pilots and military planes.

They have a wide selection of fiction novels and a monthly subscription of Newsweek and the INQUIRER.

## Unknown to classmates

None of their classmates, and very few of their teachers, knew that they were Magdalo soldiers.

Bandalaria said Acedillo's classmates only found out who he was after seeing him on TV earlier in February, issuing another strong statement on behalf of the group.

Before the PAF cut access to the Internet, each detainee spent some two to three hours for online discussions, research, and surfing, the INQUIRER source said.

"Distractions" for these students are mainly the family and friends who regularly visit them, their athletic activities, such as playing badminton and basketball, and watching television.

Expectedly, it became difficult for them to study and meet their requirements soon after their Internet connection was discontinued and the PAF confiscated their laptops and took back the personal computer it had lent them.

Now they are not even sure they will be allowed to continue their studies. Quite a number of them had, by the end of the first semester, dropped out for personal reasons.

Some were forced to file for a leave of absence due to the lack of the essential facilities, Bandalaria said, like 2nd Lt. Jeveehboy Macarubbo who was enrolled in a Diploma in Computer Science.

## Studies now uncertain

At the end of the second semester, only Acedillo, Grande and Alvariño were left to take their final exams.

Padilla said it was impossible for the PAF to reconnect their Internet access. The source said the soldiers would not appeal, either, knowing it would be a futile effort.

Bandalaria said she understood the PAF's decision, but expressed hope that the soldiers would still persevere to continue with their studies.

"I told them I would be very happy to see them graduate with their classmates. I would be happier if I will see them join the graduation ceremonies, which means by 2008, they'd already be free," Bandalaria said.


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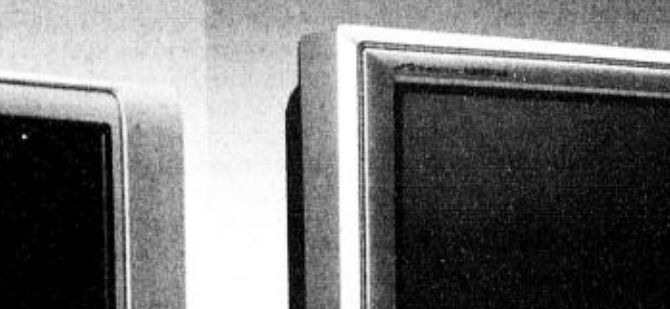

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# Gov't sues US firm over patent war

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT HAS FILED A P1.5-million counter suit against an American pharmaceutical firm because of its attempt to stop the government's importation of cheap medicine.

Former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan, president of the state-owned Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), filed the suit against Pfizer Inc. before a Makati Regional Trial Court on Tuesday, a day after he testified in a patent suit filed against him by the firm.

Pfizer accused the government in March of infringing on its patent for the antihypertension drug Norvasc, when the PITC submitted Indian import Amlogard to the Bureau of Food and Drugs for processing.

The firm said Amlogard had the same generic qualities as their product, which is owned by its branch in the United Kingdom, and importing it would violate its patent that will expire in June 2007.

But Pagdanganan told the INQUIRER that the impending termination of Pfizer's patent was what prompted the government to begin processing an alternative and cheaper generic drug this early.

"It takes 18 months on the average for the BFAD to finish testing and to clear products, so [the PITC] proceeded with the understanding that we would only import Amlogard after June 2007," said Noli Balatero, PITC Cordillera coordinator.

"Imagine the fiscal advantage [the commercial drug firms] have if we begin processing cheaper Amlogard for 18 months after 2007? We are competing with a P100-billion drug industry [in the Philippines]," he said.

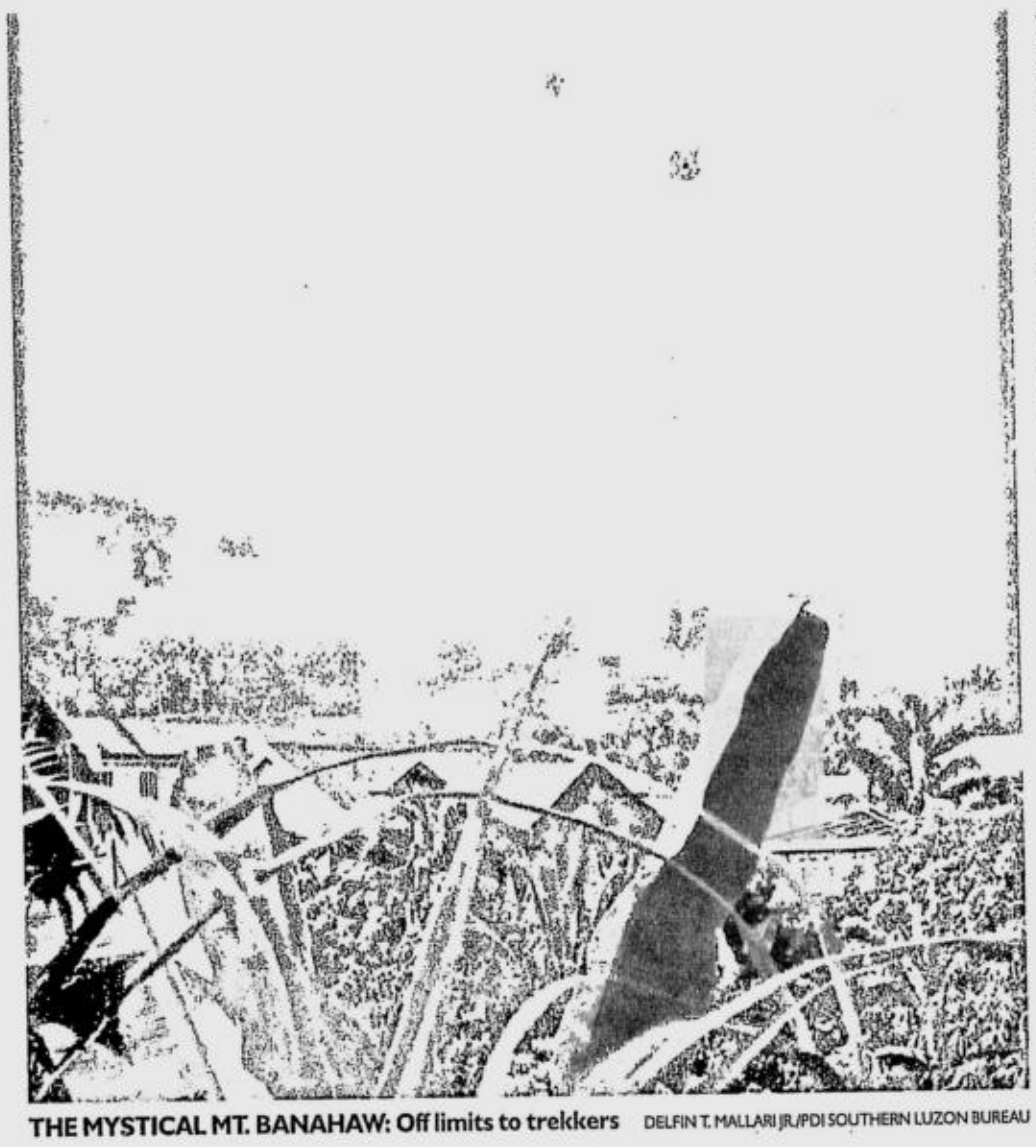
"[The PITC] is not unmindful of the rights conferred by law on the holder of a valid and subsisting patent. As a matter of policy, all medicines and drugs actually imported by the PITC for distribution in the Philippines are not covered by any existing patent," Pagdanganan said in an affidavit.

Pagdanganan said he issued Leticia Gutierrez, BFAD director, a Jan. 26 guarantee that the PITC would not "import, distribute or sell Norvasc" until Pfizer's patent expires.

"At any rate, Pfizer UK has no right to prevent the PITC from proceeding with the application... [which is] an act done privately and... [it does not] significantly prejudice [its] economic interests," he said.

Pagdanganan said the government suit protected its Botika ng Bayan outlets, which had also been threatened with civil cases should they sell Amlogard.

Local members of the Drugstores Association of the Philippines on Wednesday confirmed that they had received letters from drug firms that discouraged them from selling government imports. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



THE MYSTICAL MT. BANAHAW: Off limits to trekkers DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

# 10 more Banahaw trespassers arrested

LUCENA CITY—ARMY SOLDIERS and volunteer mountain watchdogs arrested 10 more trespassers inside the prohibited area of Mt. Banahaw on Maundy Thursday.

The first seven mountaineers were nabbed in the morning, while the rest were caught later in the day, according to Janet Geneblazo, information officer of the Tanggol Kalikasan (Protect Environment), a public interest environmental legal defense center and one of the mountain volunteer groups.

Those arrested were identified as brothers Ariel and Eric de Chavez; Jomar Bienveneda, Oreta Malamig, Rodelo Biglete Jr. and Manolo Guevarra Jr.—all tricycle drivers; and Cyd Esguerra, a student of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Manila.

All are residents of San Pablo City.

Later in the afternoon, the group also arrested Henry Contemplacion, Mark Joseph Camacho and Bon Jovi Capule, also of San Pablo.

The three were found near the Kristalino Falls, which is inside the mountain's off-limits area.

Manny Calayag, Dolores municipal environment officer, said the seven mountaineers who illegally sneaked into the closed area of the mystical mountain on Wednesday and had been the subject of a massive search could be part of the arrested trespassers.

"The seven of the arrested suspects were found near the mountain summit. They were well equipped with necessary mountain gears and provisions that would last them for several days," Calayag said over the phone.

He said the suspects identified themselves as environment researchers that were not aware of the prohibition.

On Tuesday, 20 mountain trespassers were also arrested but were released for "humanitarian reason" after being detained for six hours at the Dolores municipal jail. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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# Leading Cebu anti-illegal fishing crusader slain

CEBU CITY—ONE OF THE CITY'S LEADING crusaders against illegal fishing died Thursday, a day after he was shot four times by an unidentified assailant while he was about to enter his house in Barangay Dauis, Talisay City.

Elpidio de la Victoria, 46, program director of the Cebu City Bantay Dagat Commission and the city's market administrator, was shot in the back and arm and twice in the buttocks at around 3 p.m. on Wednesday. He died at the Chong Chua Hospital at 8:50 a.m. the next day.

Senior Supt. George Corpus, chief of the regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG 7), said police had yet to determine the motive for the killing.

Lawyer Antonio Oposa, team leader of the Visayan Sea Squadron, said he suspected that the death was related to their campaign to ban commercial fishing in the Visayan Sea.

De la Victoria was a member of the Visayan Sea Squadron, a volunteer organization that guards the Visayan Sea from destructive fishing methods.

Only last week, the victim revealed that the people affected by the campaign had raised P1 million to liquidate him and Oposa.

Mayor Tomas Osmeña has offered P200,000 to anyone who could give information leading to the arrest of De la Victoria's killer. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*


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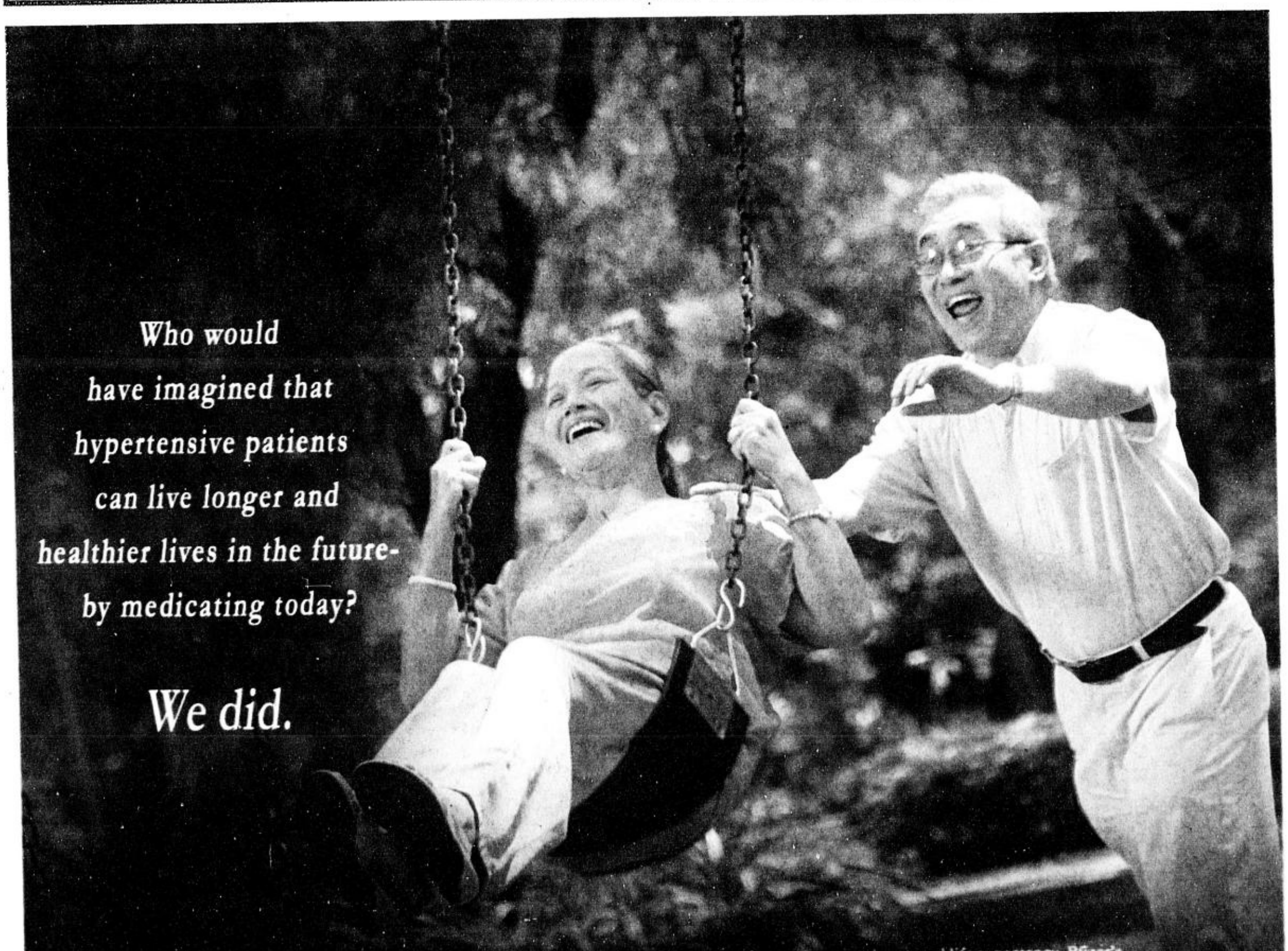

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# Calapan old families bring out 'carrozas'

THE ALVEYRA family preparing for the procession on Good Friday. The image of Jesus Carrying the Cross was here since 1600.
MADONNA T. VIROLA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**By Madonna T. Virola**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CITY OF CALAPAN—THE TRADITIONAL parade of centuries-old religious icons is an annual ritual for old families here, giving people from all walks of life a good view of the treasured images on Good Friday.

The event usually runs just before dusk up to early evening, immediately after Christ's crucifixion.

The usual order of the procession, according to the Stations of the Cross, is as follows—with their caretaker families:

St. Peter (Alberto family; Marlyn Ignacio), Agony in the Garden (Agay family), Carrying of the Cross (Alveyra family), Santa Salome (Arellano family), Magdalena (Lasquety family), Veronica (Dr. Rosita Ignacio Cusi).

St. John Evangelist (Ms Lourdes Magtibay assisted by Butch Lubi), Crucified Lord (Dr. Emelita Goco), Pieta (Erlinda Espiritu and family), Sto. Intierro/Burol (San Agustin family), and Blessed Mother/Mater Dolorosa (Luna-Ignacio family).

Owners of the nearly life-size images, wheeled on "carrozas" fitted with a generator set and a spray of flowers, are usually public figures with recognizable surnames in the town's political and social history from the Spanish period up to the present.

Lawyer Erlinda Espiritu, 80, mother of former Gov. Chippy Espiritu, is the daughter of former Gov. Arturo Arce-Ignacio, who was four times elected and twice appointed governor.

## Spared from fire

She is the caretaker of the 75-year-old Pieta, which is believed to have spared their house from a fire that hit the old Capitol building and the church in 1977.

Celia Alveyra, 67, is a scion of Feliciano Alveyra, the original owner of the Carrying of the Cross, said to date back to the 1600s. It was owned by Feliciano who was the *cabeza de barangay* (barangay head) during the Spanish rule.

Feliciano owned one of the first 16 houses in Calapan, said Celia, who pointed to the century-old house near the cathedral as that owned by her grandfather.

Feliciano donated part of the land for the Leido Memorial National High School, a leading public high school in the city, and site of the original cathedral.

The Feliciano clan said the present image had been "cannibalized" by believers who trimmed the edges of the fingers and plucked its now thinning hair for amulets.

## Medicinal value

Devotees usually place bottles of honey underneath the Sto. Entierro's garb and remove these after the procession, according to its caretaker Agusto "Tito" Agustin Rodriguez, 50.

"The ritual will supposedly give medicinal value to the honey," he said.

The day care center next to the old City Hall was named after Lilia San Agustin, his grandmother.

Part of the land occupied by the St. Augustine seminary was donated by Rodriguez's forebears.

Missed in Friday's parade was the century-old Queen of the Holy Rosary, owned by Dr. Rene Garcia Alberto (the original owner was Jose Vega Alberto). It is now in Manila.

Rosie Magtibay-Lubi, 72, a lay church servant, had been joining the procession since 1953 until an ailment slowed her down three years ago and put her on the sidelines.

Her sister, Lourdes Magtibay, has assumed her sole duty as caretaker of St. John Evangelist.

Lubi said it would reach P15,000 to P20,000 to defray costs during the procession, including the generator set or battery, flowers to spruce up the image, and food for participants.

Despite the amount and the fact that the caretakers are getting sick and old, Lubi said taking care of the saints had become a sacred obligation, especially to their grandparents from whom they inherited the images.

Refurbishing the carrozas and dressing up the images anew are also all about keeping the community bond strong, said Jose Lasquety, whose family owns Magdalena.

"The flowers used to decorate the carroza were provided by neighbors tilling a communal farm," said Lasquety, 53, who returned here in 1998 after a 12-year stay in the United States.

# Last foreign missionary leaves Negros parish

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—MORE THAN 400 years of foreign missionary leadership in the parish of Cauayan, Negros Occidental, comes to an end when the last of the foreign parish priests in the province retires today, Easter Sunday.

Fr. Michael Doohan, 78, a Columban missionary, will turn over the reins of the St. Paul's Parish to the Kabankalan Diocese at a Mass at 4 p.m. today to be led by Kabankalan Bishop Patricio Buzon.

"This is history in the making. The missionaries have been in the diocese since 1572 and now there are sufficient local priests to replace them," Doohan said.

Doohan said that since the first Roman Catholic priests from Spain arrived in Cauayan in 1572, it has been a long history of foreigners who have ran the town's parish apart from a few war years.

"I am the last of the foreign missionary parish priests but that does not mean that we are leaving completely... Retiring from the Cauayan parish does not mean my retiring from life," he said.

As missionaries, Doohan said the Columbans have completed the first phase of their mission of ensuring that local priests take over the parishes.

The second phase is sending Filipino missionaries to the rest of Asia, he added.

When he leaves Cauayan, Doohan said he would work at mission promotion by finding more people to join the priesthood and serve as missionaries in the rest of Asia.

Doohan said the number of Catholic priests was still not enough to minister to the faithful, with barely one priest for every 20,000. The Philippines, being the only Christian country in Asia, further challenged the Catholic Church to become a missionary people for Asia, he said.

"As Columban missionaries, we only are successful in our mission if we make ourselves redundant," he added. That means being able to turn the reins over to local priests, he explained.

Doohan said he was very thankful for his 53 fruitful years in Negros Occidental, "20 happy ones" of which he spent at the St. Paul's Parish.

"I will miss the Cauayanons and remember them with love," said Doohan, who will retire at the Columban mission house in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental.

Doohan came to the Philippines in 1953 as a young missionary. When he was assigned in the rural town of Cauayan, he visited his parishioners in remote villages by riding on a horse. He said he was now too old to go on horseback through the mountains.

A MUCH younger Fr. Michael Doohan in front of the St. Paul's Parish in Cauayan: He spread God's word in the mountains on horseback. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aside from the Columbans who arrived in the 1950s, the Cauayan parish was led by Fr. Martin de San Nicolas, now a "Blessed," who came to Negros in 1627. In 1632, the Jesuits led the parish, among them was Fr. Esteban Jaime who was martyred in Isio, Cauayan, on Feb. 17, 1659.

The Recoletos priests later took over, then the Dominicans in 1769 and the Dutch MillHill priests who came in 1909 and stayed until 1942.

So the turnover this afternoon, he said, was a historical completion of the transition from a foreign mission to the Filipinization of the Catholic Church in southern Negros Occidental.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

# A long way home to 'no man's land'

By Leah P. Bugtay
*Contributor*

SEVENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD JALIL SAGUMAYAN'S greatest dream is to go home and spend the remaining time of his life with his family on Siromon Island.

*"Ang gusto ko lang na makabalik kami dito at maging masaya gaya nang dati* (My wish is for us to return here and be happy as a community like what we used to be)," says Sagumayan.

It is not as simple as it sounds, though. Siromon is among the 11 islands off the eastern coast of Zamboanga City, which are considered "no-man's land" by locals.

The cluster, which is a 30-minute ride by jeepney and another hour's ride by boat from the city proper, has been known to be the sanctuary or jump-off point of rebels, pirates and other lawless elements to Zamboanga or Sulu.

The old trees and huge rocks are mute witnesses to a number of bombs being dropped by the military on the islands, particularly Siromon (one of the bigger islands), in the pursuit of rebels or criminals. The crystal-clear aquamarine waters surrounding the islands were virtually the battleground of armed groups.

Afraid to being caught in the crossfire, residents left the islands and sought refuge in nearby barangays on the mainland.

Leaving, according to Sagumayan, is not new to the old settlers. During World War II, they fled the islands but eventually returned after the war.

But he did not expect that when they left the islands in 1972, when martial law was declared and the Moro people, he said, were considered rebels by the government, it would take a long time before they could return home.

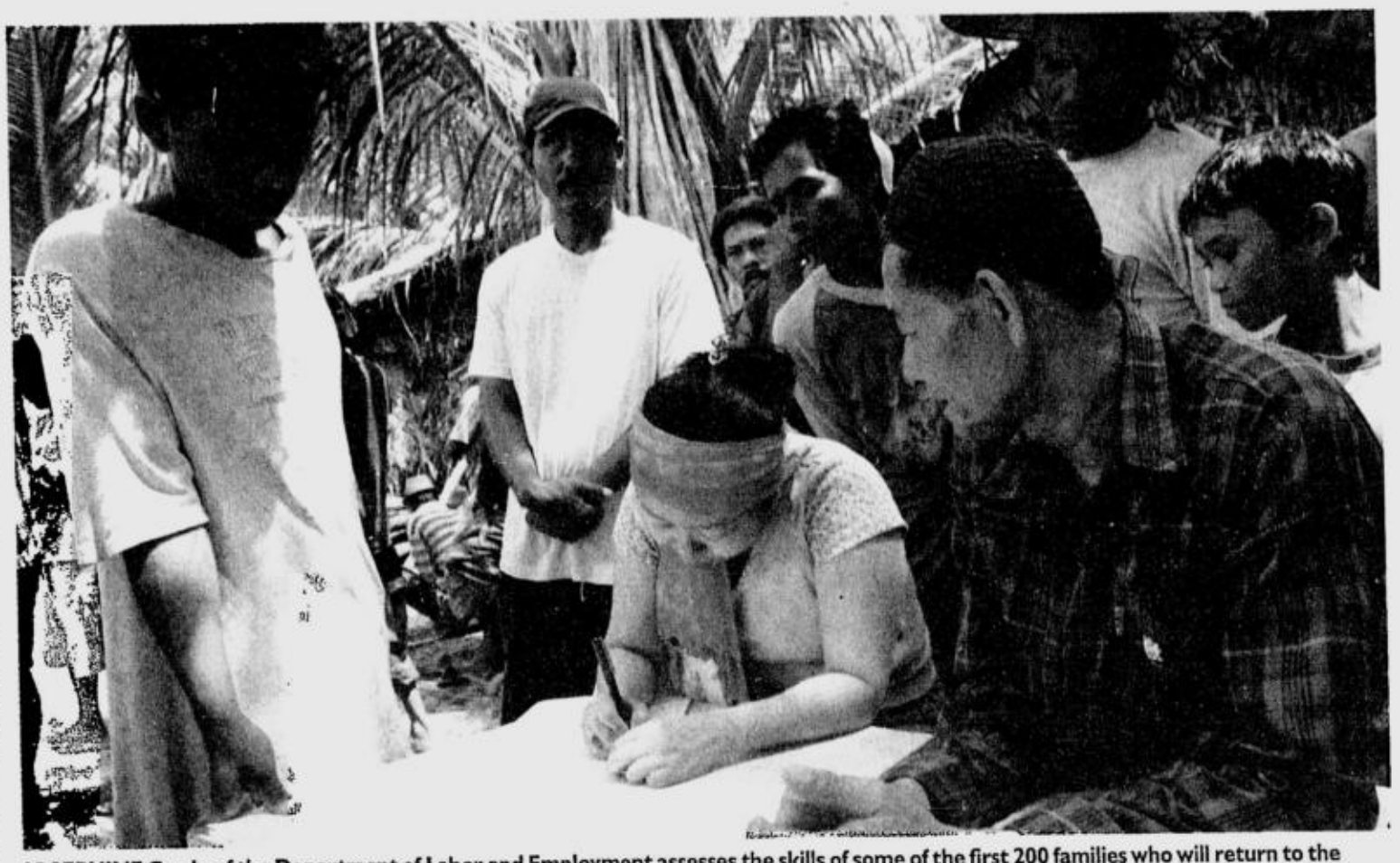
It fact, they never did—until now.

## Refugees

Sagumayan and his family stayed in Barangay Quinipot where he even became a village council member (*kagawad*) for 12 years. The other settlers lived with their relatives in nearby barangays across the islands.

*"Nagkahiwa-hiwalay kami* (We were separated from one another)," said Sagumayan in between long silences.

In 2000, some residents dared to go back to the islands but could only stay for a couple of months as intermittent clashes between soldiers stationed on one of the islands and lawless elements occurred.



**JOSEPHINE Crudo of the Department of Labor and Employment assesses the skills of some of the first 200 families who will return to the cluster of islands off Zamboanga City, which have been deserted early since the early 1970s due to fighting between government and Moro rebel forces.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UN ACT FOR PEACE PROGRAM

Amid the sporadic battles, the people have to content themselves with farming seaweed or upland crops and fishing in the surrounding waters during daytime, and going back to their villages before dusk.

*"Nandito sa isla ang pangkabuhayan namin. Mahirap makahanap ng magandang trabaho sa* mainland *kasi karamihan sa amin hindi nakapag-aral* (Our livelihood is here on the islands. It's hard to look for decent jobs in the mainland as most of us have not gone to school)," Sagumayan says.

For Yakub Baguil, another early settler, returning to the islands is enough.

**JALIL Sagumayan, 76: Home-bound.**

## Assistance

*"Mababuhay na kami dito kahit konti o walang tulong na dumating* (We'll survive here with little or no help coming)," he says.

But assistance is on their way. The Mindanao Communicators' Network (MindaComNet), in partnership with the government's and United Nations' ACT for Peace Program, is facilitating the return of the first 200 families to the islands.

Representatives of different government line agencies, the city government, private groups and nongovernment organizations, which are members of the MindaComNet, flocked to Siromon and met with the families to assess what they needed to reestablish their communities.

"There's a need to assist the residents to improve the quality of their lives, considering that for years, there is no intervention on the islands," says Chita Cilindro, regional director of the Department of Labor and Employment.

## Community needs

Cilindro and her staff reviewed the skills of the residents and conducted an "informal training needs analysis" for possible wage and self-employment opportunities.

With maps of the 11 islands, foresters of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also discussed with the residents the resources found on the islands.

Other government agencies present were the Department of Trade and Industry, Population Commission, Office of Muslim Affairs, Commission on Higher Education, National Statistics Office, Philippine Information Agency, Commission on Human Rights, Philippine Tourism Authority, Zamboanga Economic Zone, Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), as well as the city government and the office of Rep. Erico Fabian.

Members of the Moro National Liberation Front, led by Akbari "Kumander Alvarez" Samson, also met with the group.

## Houses for 200 families

The ACT for Peace Program will provide houses for the 200 families to be constructed in Siromon, Lampinigan and Cabugan. The other islands are Semeddang, Bagias, Lambang-Lambang, Semandal, Baung-Baong, Bisaya-Bisaya, Salang-Salangan and Pupu Shionga.

"For the old settlers to go back to 11 islands is an indication that peace and stability in that part of the city have slowly been established," says James Alih Abdul, Western Mindanao area manager of the ACT for Peace Program.

Implemented by MEDCo and supported by Australia, New Zealand and Spain, the program aims to strengthen peace-building efforts and sustain these initiatives for peace and development in southern Philippines.

For now, Sagumayan and the other families are preparing to move back to the islands.

*"Pinangarap kong dumating ang panahon na mangisda kami kahit sa gabi at pupunta dito ang mga taga-*mainland *kahit anong oras … gaya nang dati* (I longed for the day that we could go fishing even at night and people from the mainland could come over anytime of the day … just like before)," Sagumayan muses.

The rebuilding of the communities is a tall order, but with the collaborative efforts of the government, NGOs and the private sector, the dream of many Sagumayans is slowly turning into a reality.

*THE author is a communication specialist for the United Nations' Act for Peace multidonor program.*

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**For P5, a visitor at the Lourdes Grotto on Mirador Hill, Baguio City, can roam around wearing this Ifugao hat. Business is brisk during this time of the year when thousands of vacationers trek to the country's summer capital.**

# 3 Baguio old-timers want gov't to stop flyover project

**By Vincent Cabreza and EV Espiritu**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—THREE CITY OLD-timers, who are in their 80s, picketed a highway here on Thursday to try to stop a project that President Macapagal-Arroyo could not prevent.

The President's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, told former Baguio Mayor Virginia de Guia, museum curator Leonora San Agustin and local newspaper editor Cecile Afable that legal problems had blocked an order issued last year by Ms Arroyo to stop the construction of a vehicular flyover at the foot of Marcos Highway, near the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC).

The Department of Public Works and Highways has proposed various projects for this site since it completed the Marcos Highway rehabilitation project financed by a 1997 loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

In a visit here last year, Ms Arroyo said that instead of a flyover project, she preferred to build cable cars in the Cordillera to ease vegetable transport.

She ordered the DPWH to negotiate a way out of a contract that was already awarded to a local contractor.

"What we can do is investigate why no one acted on the President's instructions," Defensor said when he met the three women and members of a local women's group on Wednesday at the Presidential Mansion here.

But that assurance did not stop De Guia, San Agustin and Afable from marching to the highway and carrying placards that condemned the project.

De Guia, who had campaigned longest in public against the flyover, said traffic along the BGHMC rotunda never justified the construction of a flyover.

"A flyover would also destroy the scenery. We are trying to preserve what is left of Baguio which is a heritage city [built by the American colonial government]," she said.

The Marcos Highway and Kennon Road, the major routes to and from the city, meet at the rotunda.

A Palace aide said Defensor obtained a report about the project from Mariano Alquiza, DPWH Cordillera director, last week and this raised some questions about the DPWH's insistence to build the flyover at the site.

The department initially offered to build a vehicular underpass that would link the Marcos Highway and Kennon Road to the same site in 1999, but government environmental officials eventually rejected that project.

The DPWH said traffic jams would occur in these areas in 10 years due to the volume of motorists that would be using both access roads to the summer capital.

In 2002, the department reintroduced the flyover project, but it discovered that it erroneously mapped out a 178-meter flyover. The site requires a safe 296-m structure.

De Guia said the 178-m flyover project was issued an environmental compliance certificate.

The DPWH's official explanation for the subsequent project proposals was the need to spend the P44 million left untouched from the Marcos Highway loan. It said the money would revert back to JBIC unless it is used in a project linked to the highway's rehabilitation.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon has refused to approve the project and has declined to issue tree-cutting permits to the contractor.

# Sorsogon mayor launches 'Back to Beaches' campaign

**By Bobby Q. Labalan**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

BACON DISTRICT, SORSOGON CITY—MAYOR Sally Lee has launched a "Balik Kumpiansa Campaign" (Restore Confidence) after resort owners decried how the report on the alleged mercury contamination by Lafayette Philippines Inc. scared the public into avoiding the beaches here and in neighboring towns.

The campaign is aimed at quelling the people's fear they could acquire skin diseases if they use the beaches, as what the story that had spread around brought about.

Lee urged the public to spread the "good news" that it was safe to take a dip in seawater in Bacon's beach and those in nearby towns.

Campaign chair Bobet Lee expressed satisfaction with the hundreds of people who trooped to the beach here during the April 9 morning launch.

At the onset of summer, when beaches elsewhere in the country are teeming with visitors, lack of clientele has plagued the Bacon Beach Resort Operators Association.

Over the past month, results of laboratory analysis from the University of the Philippines-Natural Science Research Institute (UP-NSRI), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau have declared "well below the tolerable level the mercury content of water and fish samples from this city, Gubat, Prieto-Diaz, Barcelona and Bulusan."

The reports, however, failed to ease public fears, according to the resort owners.

Miram Duka, barangay chair of Caricaran, where the resorts are found, lashed at the ABS-CBN giant network for reporting an alleged victim of water contamination.

The report was filed by a Manila-based reporter.

"The report was blown out of proportion as there was no medical proof to show that the skin disease was acquired by the 'victim' from the sea water," she said.

A medical team from the UP-Philippine General Hospital has examined water samples in the area and found that the skin disease was not caused by mercury contamination.

Duka appealed to the broadcast network to make a follow-up story to enlighten the public on the safety of the beaches.

# Boracay resort owners ask for delay in Aklan's one-entry, one-exit policy

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—RESORT OWNERS ON Boracay Island and the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) in Malay town where Boracay is located, are calling for the deferment of a provincial ordinance that imposes a one-entry-one-exit policy on the island.

In a joint statement sent to the INQUIRER, the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) and the Boracay Chamber of Commerce Inc. (BCCI) called on Gov. Carlito Marquez to put off implementation of the policy at least after this month, the busiest during the peak season on the island.

The two groups representing owners of resorts, restaurants and other businesses on the island-resort said the implementation "may be disastrous to our tourism industry."

The policy would create "chaos" based on a trial implementation last year, according to the statement signed by BFI president Nenette Aguirre-Graf and BCCI chair Philippe Bartholomi.

Provincial Ordinance No. 15-03 requires all boats to dock and depart at the Cagban jetty port in Barangay Manoc-Manoc, at the southern tip of the island-resort, instead at the three boat stations along the 4-kilometer stretch of white beach.

The ordinance is among the measures adopted by the provincial government to tighten security and improve the comfort of tourists in the world-famous resort.

The ordinance was supposed to take effect on April 1 but was met with opposition from the Malay municipal government and other sectors.

Municipal Ordinance No. 157-2002 allows boats to enter and leave the island through the three boat stations.

But starting in April, Malay Mayor Ciceron Cawaling implemented a multiple-entry and single-exit scheme. This allows the boats to dock at Stations 1, 2 and 3 and departing from the Cagban jetty port.

The BFI and BCCI said the provincial ordinance should be deferred because the necessary infrastructure systems, like roads, and adequate transportation were not yet in place. The groups also want the creation of the jetty port management body to supervise port operations and set guidelines and standards before the new policy was implemented.

They said they supported the multiple-entry and single-exit policy to improve the security and safety of the island, but added that this should be done with proper consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders.

In a separate letter to Marquez, the ABC of Malay raised similar reasons and called for deferment of the policy.

ABC-Malay president Nolasco Claud said the provincial government "overstepped the bounds of its power" by issuing an ordinance in conflict with an existing municipal ordinance.

Claud said no consultation meetings were conducted with the affected sectors.

While there are disadvantages to the implementation of the new policy, he said its "hasty implementation is not the solution."

But Marquez said the policy would be fully enforced within the next two months.

He said local officials were only waiting for franchises of "multicab" units that would ply on the island.

Minor improvements are also being completed to allow motorized boats to dock even during low tide.

Boracay has been enjoying an upswing of tourist arrivals for the past years. The number of visitors last year reached 499,457, 16.48 percent higher than the 428,755 recorded in 2004.

The tourists poured in P8.18 billion, which was 38 percent higher than the P7.88 billion earned in 2004.

# Camarines town evolving into tourist spot

**By Juan Escandor Jr.**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CALABANGA, CAMARINES SUR—Owing to its rich religious culture and famous image of Amang Hinulid (Holy Sepulcher) that is believed to be miraculous, this town enjoys an influx of thousands of tourists during the Lenten Week.

The crowd drawer is the Amang Hinulid, which thousands of devotees from different parts of the country visit from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday.

During the two-day Lenten holiday alone, the continuous flow of thousands of barefoot pilgrims, walking shoulder-to-shoulder along the national road 20 km from Naga City going to and out of this town, is a sight to see.

The Amang Hinulid has earned popularity among its devotees through word-to-mouth accounts of miracles since the 19th century.

Undocumented accounts of the image's apparition and healing powers are numerous.

Aside from the famous image of Amang Hinulid, the colorful mix of combined pagan rituals and modern-day art forms practiced every year on Lenten week makes an interesting discovery.

One would witness the pagan ritual of cleansing performed by hooded male and female penitents in groups of five.

The hooded shirtless male penitents—adorned with leaves, flowers and ringlets made of crawling wild flowering vine cadena-de-amor—make their rhythmic moves in the streets of the town towards the sea to bathe, a cleansing ritual rooted from their ancestors.

While the hooded male penitents do the act of penance by flogging their backs with chains and bamboo whip, the hooded women penitents called "*sayos*" make their rounds around town, asking for alms that they donate to the church.

Dressed in black and face covered, the *sayos*' identities are mysteriously concealed from the public as they ask alms in favor of the Church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to pay for their sins.

Unlike in other places in Bicol, the vanishing practice of *pabasa* or the oral Bicol chant of the Passion of Christ performed for 24 hours is still a dominant practice in numerous houses here beginning Holy Wednesday to Maundy Thursday.

Thirteen years ago, another Holy Week event came into being, which has now become a tradition here through years of religious observance.

It is becoming the second crowd drawer of this town during the Lenten week.

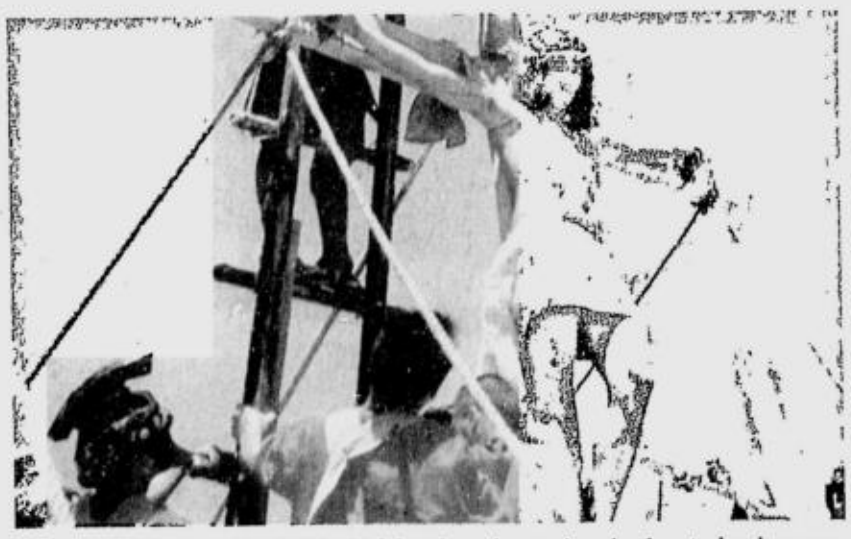
In this Bicol town, the "Stations of the Cross" is a tableaux of costumed live mannequins performing the scenes from the "Garden of Gethsemane" to 'Jesus' Crucifixion."

The interactive street play of the "Passion of Christ," which is performed as an alternative to the "Seven Last Words" Mass, has been engaging since a group of parishioners, which a former parish priest led, initiated the tradition.

Involving a cast of at least 100 performers, the street play is staged in several locations in the town and runs for 17 hours on Good Friday.

Catholics here also practice the same Easter observance of "Soledad," "Salubong" and The Resurrection.

But what made the Lenten tradition here distinct from other towns in Bicol is that religious tourists continue to visit Calabanga to renew their devotion.



**THE "PASSION OF CHRIST," which involves about a hundred casts, has become an interactive street play that draws thousands of crowd on Good Friday.**

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**Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)**
Science Garden, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1100

P R. No. AD 06-0138 & 06-0147
Security and Janitorial Services
PAGASA Central Office

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Security and Janitorial Services**

| Qty./ Unit | Brief Description | Approved Budget for the contract | Contract Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lot 1 | Security Services (36 Security Guards) | P 3,800,842.50 | June to December 2006 |
| Lot 2 | Janitorial Services (39 Janitors) | P 3,066,630.14 | June to December 2006 |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule/ Time | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Requirements & Bidding Documents | April 10 – 24, 2006 | General Services Section 3/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg. |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference – Security Srvs.<br>Pre-bid Conference – Janitorial Srvs. | April 25, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.<br>April 25, 2006 / 3:00 p.m. | Amihan Conference Room 2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg. |
| 3. Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Envelope I – Security Srvs.<br>Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Envelope I – Janitorial Srvs. | May 8, 2006 / 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.<br>May 9, 2006 / 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | |
| 4. Opening of Bids - Envelope II – Security Srvs.<br>Opening of Bids - Envelope II – Janitorial Srvs. | May 8, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.<br>May 9, 2006 / 2:00 p.m. | Amihan Conference Room 2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg. |
| 5. Bid Evaluation & Post-qualification | May 10 – 22, 2006 | |
| 6. Notice of Award | May 29, 2006 | |

Interested parties may avail Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to 0.2% of the approved budget per item in no case lower than P500.00 and not more than P1,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the Company's TIN.

The PAGASA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

Original Signed
**ROLU P. ENCARNACION**
Vice-Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI - April 9 & 16, 2006)

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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## WHAT'S INSIDE


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# Volunteer finds forgiveness at Home for Angels

## Painful experience brought Nora Balderas to haven for abandoned babies

By Tina G. Santos

NORA BALDERAS TREATS EACH and every child at the Home for the Angels as if they were her own.

"Knowing that these children don't have anybody to love them back, sometimes I feel that I tend to love them even more than my own children," said Balderas, who has been working as a volunteer at the Home since it was put up 10 years ago.

A project of Mayor Lito Atienza and his wife, Evelina, the Home is a crisis center in San Andres, Manila which has looking after neglected or abandoned babies.

"The Home aims to give these kids the gift of life and a chance for a bright future," the 50-year-old widow said.

She added that she felt a strong desire to serve at the center after she attended one of the prolife seminars sponsored by the city government.

"*Sa lahat na mga napuntahan kong seminar, dito talaga ako tinamaan* (Of all the seminars I had been to, this one really got to me)," said Balderas, a Manila City Hall employee.

But she had another more compelling reason. "More than the love and affection I could offer to these children, I see in them the child I lost through abortion," the mother of two confessed, her eyes filled with tears. "It was supposed to be my third baby but we could not afford to have another child because my husband was then jobless."

Balderas said that the incident she was referring to happened in 1993. She was two months pregnant but she decided that she didn't want to keep the baby. "A very close relative" who had gone through an abortion then referred her to a *hilot* (midwife).

### 'I thought I would die'

"I couldn't forget that day. I was bleeding profusely and it was too painful, I thought I would die," Balderas said. "*Inisip ko dugo pa lang yon, hindi pa tao, kaya akala ko* okay *lang* (I thought that it was not yet a person, that it was just blood, so it was okay)," she added.

The experience proved to be painful, not only physically, but also emotionally, as it ruined her relationship with her husband.

He did not even know that she was pregnant, and when he found out what she had done, he was enraged. Even worse, the abortion affected her ability to bear a child.

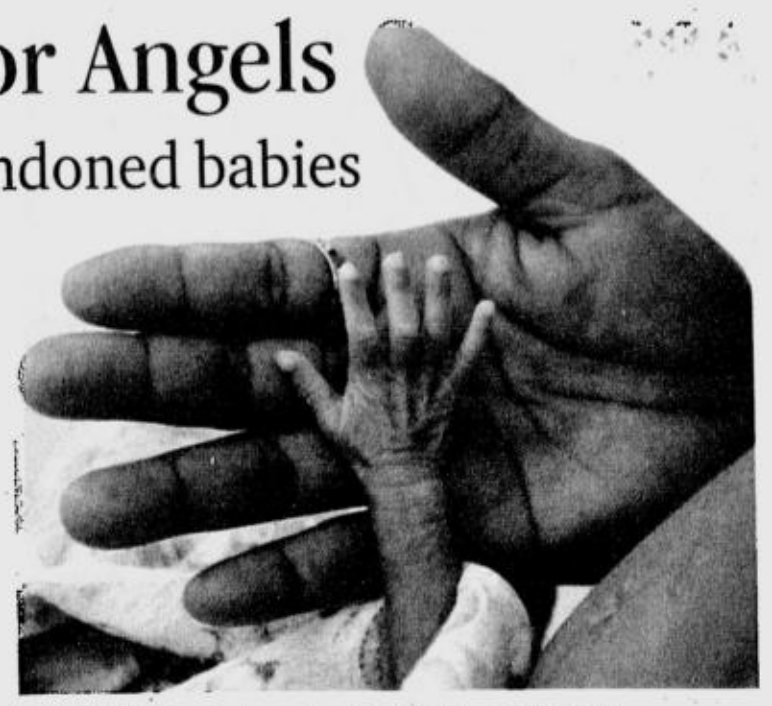
"My abortion could have rendered me infertile because the doctor said my uterus had been infected," she said. "This prompted my husband to look for another woman with whom he sired a child."

Even her own kids treated her coldly when they found out.

### Shocked reaction

"I decided to tell them one All Souls' Day as I lighted a candle for my aborted baby. They asked for whom the candle was, so I explained everything to them," Balderas said. "But, of course, they were shocked, they didn't even know I got pregnant."

"I was full of regrets. If I could only turn back the hands of time, I wouldn't do it," she added, saying she realized that abortion was not only a sin against God but man as well.



**BALDERAS: I see in them the child I lost through abortion.** EDWIN BACASMAS

Even now, there are still times when she would feel guilty but she has found comfort not only in the company of the children staying at the Home for the Angels, but more importantly, in God.

"Being a volunteer was like a healing process for me," Balderas said. "I have learned to forgive myself and turn to God

VOLUNTEER/ A27

# 'Psychological theater' and the Resurrection

## Sta. Ana-based group brings the Easter message across in a musical

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT MAY HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE BURST OF INspiration, a sudden urge to rebuild her relationship with God in a way she knew best.

Four years after she wrote Hesus na Buhay (The Musical), Sheila Gamo, executive director of Supervoice Music and Theater Foundation Inc. based in Sta. Ana, Manila, still refers to its creation as "divine intervention."

"I was browsing through some books in a local bookstore, thinking of a special thing to do for God during Lent, when the idea of writing the musical hit me," Gamo said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

She then hurried home and wrote the script for Hesus na Buhay overnight. The next day, Gamo gave the script to her musician-turned-businessman father Honorio Lopez Jr., who composed the music for the play.

"It usually took him weeks to write songs, but he completed the entire musical score for Hesus na Buhay in a day," Gamo recalled with a grin.

She said that things began to fall into place after that. She immediately recruited her first batch of scholars from Concordia College in March 2002 to breathe life to the musical.

With only an initial cast of 11 performing all the roles and a week to go before the actual performance, Gamo worked double-time training her scholars for the big day.

Their hard work paid off. On a Holy Wednesday, the play's cast captivated their first audience at Sta. Isabel College in Manila.

**THE CAST of Hesus na Buhay rehearses one of the scenes from the musical.** ROMY HOMILLADA

"At first, everybody was either surprised or curious, because we had a different interpretation of Jesus Christ's life, passion and resurrection," Gamo recalled.

### From Adam and Eve to man's fall

Instead of starting the play with scenes from Jesus' life, Hesus na Buhay begins with the story of Adam and Eve and the fall of Man.

"Interpretative dances and songs, ranging from rap to jazz to modern, make up the full-length musical, which lasts for an hour and 30 minutes," Gamo explained.

The play eventually ends with the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, instead of the usual resurrection scene.

"Through the play, we remind the audience that Jesus did not only ascend to heaven and leave us behind, but he is actually in each and every one of us," Gamo said.

Gamo, however, said that apart from getting the Easter message across to a variety of audiences, she has also made it her goal to help troubled but gifted teens.

"Many years ago, I accepted a mission to serve the youth," she said. "It all began with the first batch of talented but poor scholars whom we trained for free." Gamo said most of the scholars had undergone sad or traumatic experiences as children.

### Therapeutic

With most of them coming from broken families, the talented youngsters needed to be introduced to activities like acting in the musical that would take their minds away from their problems.

For Klarice Roaquin, 21, and her younger sister Klarinda, 19, both of South Cembo, Makati City, performing was the best way for them to come to terms with the challenges they were faced with.

Klarice said that for many years, she and her sister had to deal with their father leaving their family for another woman. "We were not used to confronting or talking about our problems at home," Klarice, an incoming college freshman, said.

While she resorted to going out with her friends and giving in to different vices like drinking, the younger Klarinda kept her feelings to herself and cried.

Adolf Montealegre, 21, of Paco, Manila, had similar experiences with his family.

"I was a difficult teenager. I had a habit of fighting with people around me because I could not deal with my personal problems," Montealegre said.

However, joining Supervoice and performing in the organization's plays changed their views on life and themselves.

Gamo said that apart from holding voice and dance trainings, she also conducted "psychological theater" activities for the scholars.

"The activities helped them release their suppressed emotions, accept their problems and forgive the people who have hurt them," she added.

### Mind travel

These included "mind-travel" or recalling painful episodes in their life which either they or their companions reenacted. The exercise then ended with a healing prayer, Gamo said.

"All these workshops were actually in preparation for Hesus na Buhay, our most important production for the year," said.

Supervoice scholars, who eventually grew to 104 from an initial batch of 11 members, have performed in different schools and churches on Holy Wednesdays since 2002. The latest performance was held at Sto. Niño Parish Church in Pandacan, Manila.

Montealegre and the Roaquin sisters said they have made their annual roles in the religious musical a "*panata* (commitment)."

Klarinda said, "We just used to watch the Senakulo (reenactment of the passion and death of Jesus Christ) in Poblacion (Makati), wanting to take part in something so poignant and spiritual."

### Childhood wish

With Klarice's role as Mary Magdalene and her younger sister playing Martha in the most recent production of Hesus na Buhay, the Roaquins happily fulfilled their childhood wish.

"We also established a deeper relationship with God by conveying his teachings in a different, more creative way," Klarinda said.

The musical also opened doors for forgiveness, the girls said. When their father reunited with them a few years ago, they found that they no longer harbored bitter feelings toward him.

"We have grown emotionally and spiritually since the first time we performed for Hesus na Buhay," Montealegre added. What began as divine intervention ended up as a source of hope and continuing inspiration for them, the young performer said.


**REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS**
**KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN**
**PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN**
**(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)**
**East Avenue cor. NIA Road**
**Quezon City**

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

**Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building Of Guiguinto and Meycauayan, Bulacan**

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. C-05-07666 dated December 29, 2005, intends to apply the following amounts, to wit: .

| Project | Location | PCAB License | Contract Duration | Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RD Bldg., Guiguinto, Bulacan | Sta. Rita, Guiguinto, Bulacan | Medium "A" | 6 mos. | P 8,000,000.00 |
| RD Bldg., Meycauayan Bulacan | Barrio Iba, Meycauayan, Bulacan | Medium "A" | 6 mos. | P 7,000,000.00 |

the same being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of the above infrastructure projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

LRA now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building of Guiguinto and Meycauayan, Bulacan. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **April 28, 2006**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who will be determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility Documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on **April 17 - 21, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) PESOS**. They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents, in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat at the same address, on **April 24 – 28, 2006**.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain additional information from the Land Registration Authority and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on **April 24-28, 2006**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the Bidders who passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **May 9-12, 2006**.

The LRA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **May 15, 2006** at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5/F LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City, at the following schedule, to wit:

| Project | Time |
|---|---|
| RD Bldg., Guiguinto, Bulacan | 10:00 a.m. |
| RD Bldg., Meycauayan, Bulacan | 1:30 p.m. |

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the above address on or before May 29, 2006 at the following schedule, to wit:

| Project | Time |
|---|---|
| RD Bldg., Guiguinto, Bulacan | 10:00 a.m. |
| RD Bldg., Meycauayan, Bulacan | 1:30 p.m. |

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall then follow after each submission on **May 29, 2006**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address

LRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

22 March 2006 at Quezon City.

(Sgd.) RONALD A. ORTILE
Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee on Infrastructure
5/F LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. 9244733

(PDI – April 1 & 16, 2006)



Office of the President
**BCDA**
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**
**Republic of the Philippines**

**Re-Bidding for Construction of 10th and 11th Avenues of Bonifacio Triangle Project**
**Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City**

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through the BCDA 2006 Corporate Funds intends to apply the sum of **Pesos: Fifty-five Million Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Three & 77/100 (P55,070,623.77)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under Contract for the Construction of 10th and 11th Avenues of Bonifacio Triangle Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Services shall be for the Construction of 10th and 11th Avenues of Bonifacio Triangle, Bonifacio Global City Taguig. The works shall include, but not limited to the following:

1. Road Works, including Sidewalk, Curbs and Gutters;
2. Water, Sewer and Drainage Systems;
3. 34.5 KV Underground Distribution System;
4. Streetlighting (Ducts and Fixtures) and
5. Streetscape

BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Re-bidding for Construction of the aforesaid Project. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract **(at least Medium B Range License Category A)**, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Applicants must submit their LOIs **from 17 to 18 April 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only** and obtain the Application for Eligibility to Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Twelve Thousand (P12,000.00)** at the BCDA Corporate Center 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. **Previous Applicants for the eligibility of the Project must submit anew their LOIs and present their proof of payment for them to be issued a new set of Eligibility Documents.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents **26 April 2006 at 11:00 a.m. and the Opening at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC for Infrastructure Secretariat at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before **26 April 2006 at 11:00 am**.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below **from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 05 to 08 May 2006**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC-B Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos Thirty Thousand (P30,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative **from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 05 to 08 May 2006**.

BCDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection open to all Eligible Bidders on **15 May 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **07 June 2006 at 11:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form.

a. Cash, managers check, cashiers' check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
c. Surety Bond from a reputable insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **07 June 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on the same day.

Completion of the Works is required by a total of **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days**.

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Further information may be obtained from Mr. Samuel John L. Vidallon, Head of BAC Secretariat for Infrastructure.

**BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
**BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St.**
**Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City**
**Telephone Number (632) 816-6666 Telfax No. (632) 816-0995**
**Website: www.bcda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) ANTONIO REX S. CHAN
Chairman
BAC for Infrastructure

(PDI – April 8 & 16, 2006)

# ABS-CBN's Tulfo recovers stolen van

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TULFO PDI PHOTO

POLICE HAVE RECOVERED IN Bulacan a van owned by ABS-CBN talent Erwin Tulfo that was stolen from the garage of his office in Quezon City last week.

Tulfo's Mitsubishi Space Wagon (plate number XGA 988) was found abandoned in Marilao, Bulacan on Good Friday.

Supt. James Brillantes, chief of the Quezon City Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division, told the INQUIRER that the van was allegedly taken by one of the security guards at the Erwin Tulfo Action Center on Mo. Ignacio St. corner Sgt. Esguerra, South Triangle.

"The keys to the office and the vehicle had been entrusted to the suspect," Brillantes said.

The guard, who was identified as Edgar Lebitania, was also believed to have taken from the office a laptop estimated to be worth around P80,000, a camera and P35,000 in cash.

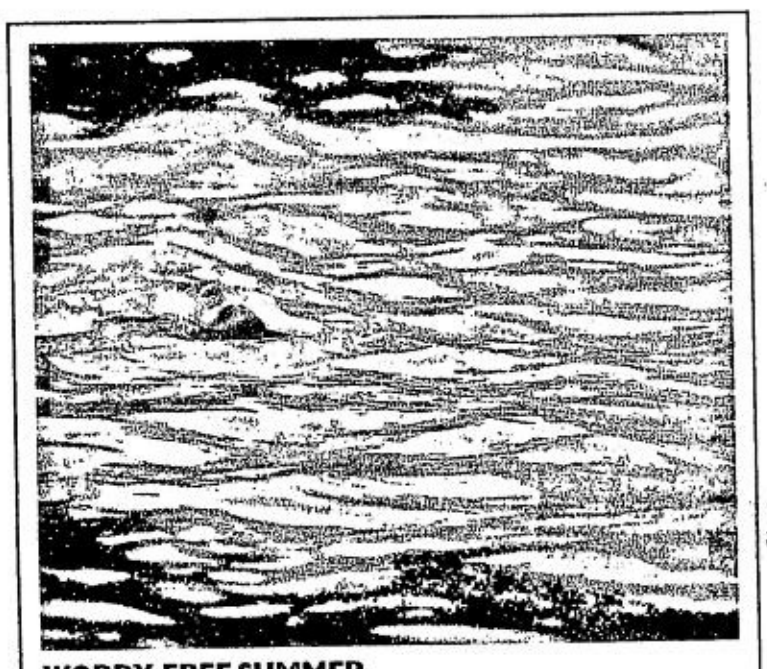
The theft was discovered on April 9 by one of Tulfo's staff writers, Mores Heramis, who immediately called the police.

Lebitania, of the El Dorado Security Agency, surrendered to the Mandaluyong Police on Maundy Thursday. He has since been detained at the Kamuning police station.

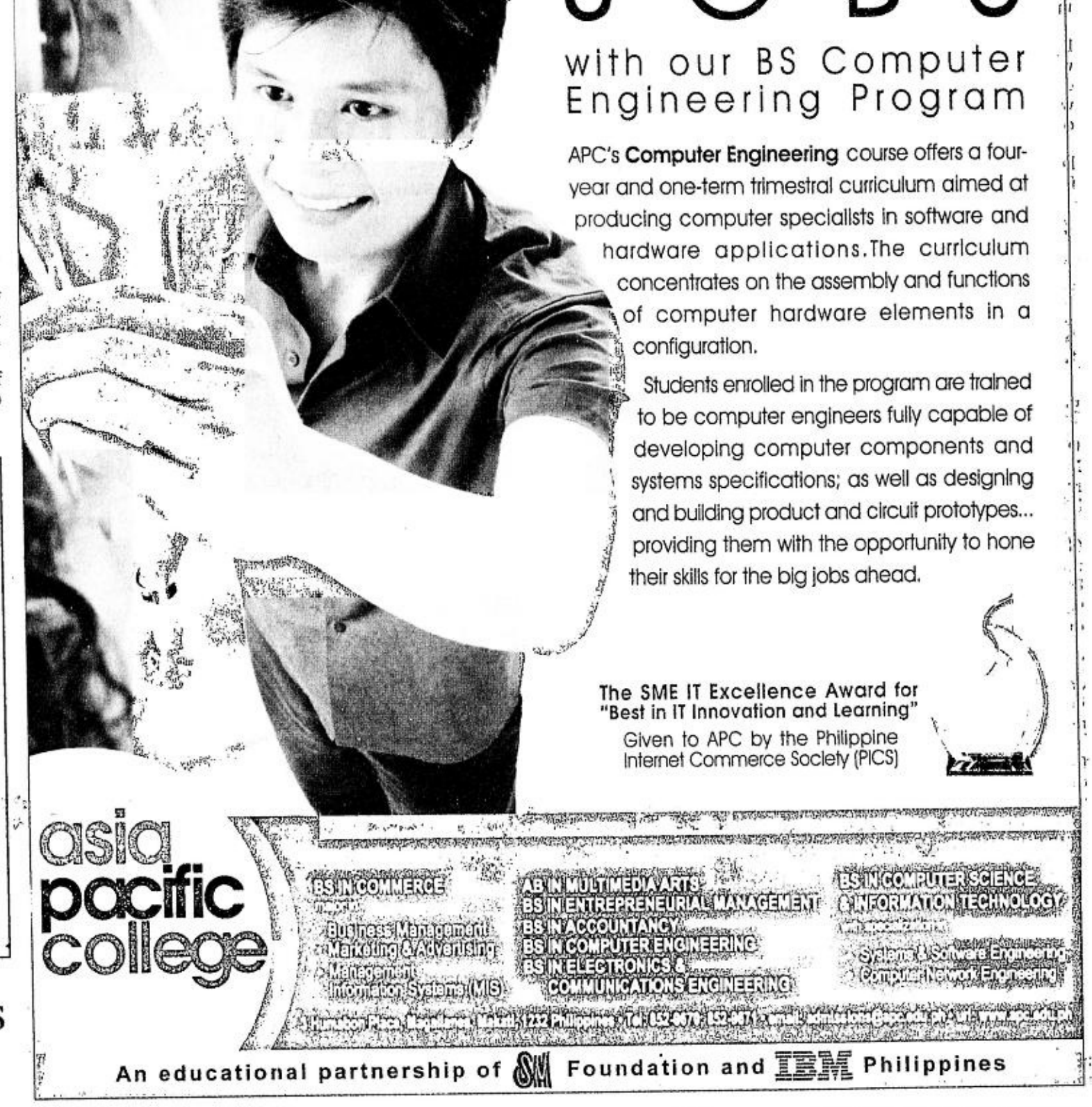
"Investigation showed that the suspect knew someone from the Mandaluyong police and he surrendered to them," Brillantes said. A day after his surrender, the police recovered the van in Bulacan. The other valuables, however, have not been found.

The police have filed car theft and qualified theft charges against Lebitania in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. Assistant City Prosecutor Zenaida Abad, meanwhile, recommended bail of P180,000 for the car theft charges and P60,000 for qualified theft.

Tulfo was reportedly out of town when the suspect broke into his office.



**WORRY-FREE SUMMER**
A swimmer relaxes in a pool in Balara, Quezon City. RAFFY LERMA



# Volunteer finds forgiveness at Home for angels

From page A26

for help. And I know that I have been forgiven because I feel that He covered my sins with blessings."

After making her peace with God, Balderas said everything seems to have fallen into place.

## Deeper meaning in life

"If there was anything positive I could draw from this experience, it is the fact that it has allowed me find a deeper meaning in life and establish a more personal relationship with God," she said.

Eventually, Balderas was able to patch up with her two children.

"I know in my heart that they have already forgiven me. Every time they're asked how many children there are in their family, they always answer, 'We're three,'" she said, adding that she even gave her aborted baby a name: Norrie Marie—a variation of her name and that of her husband, Mario.

Apart from spending time with the angels at the Home, Balderas also looks after "confused" pregnant women.

"These women give varied reasons for wanting to abort their babies—they are overseas contract workers who discovered their pregnancy just before leaving the country; they are commercial sex workers and single women who got pregnant out of wedlock; or they are married women who got pregnant after engaging in extra-marital affairs," she said.

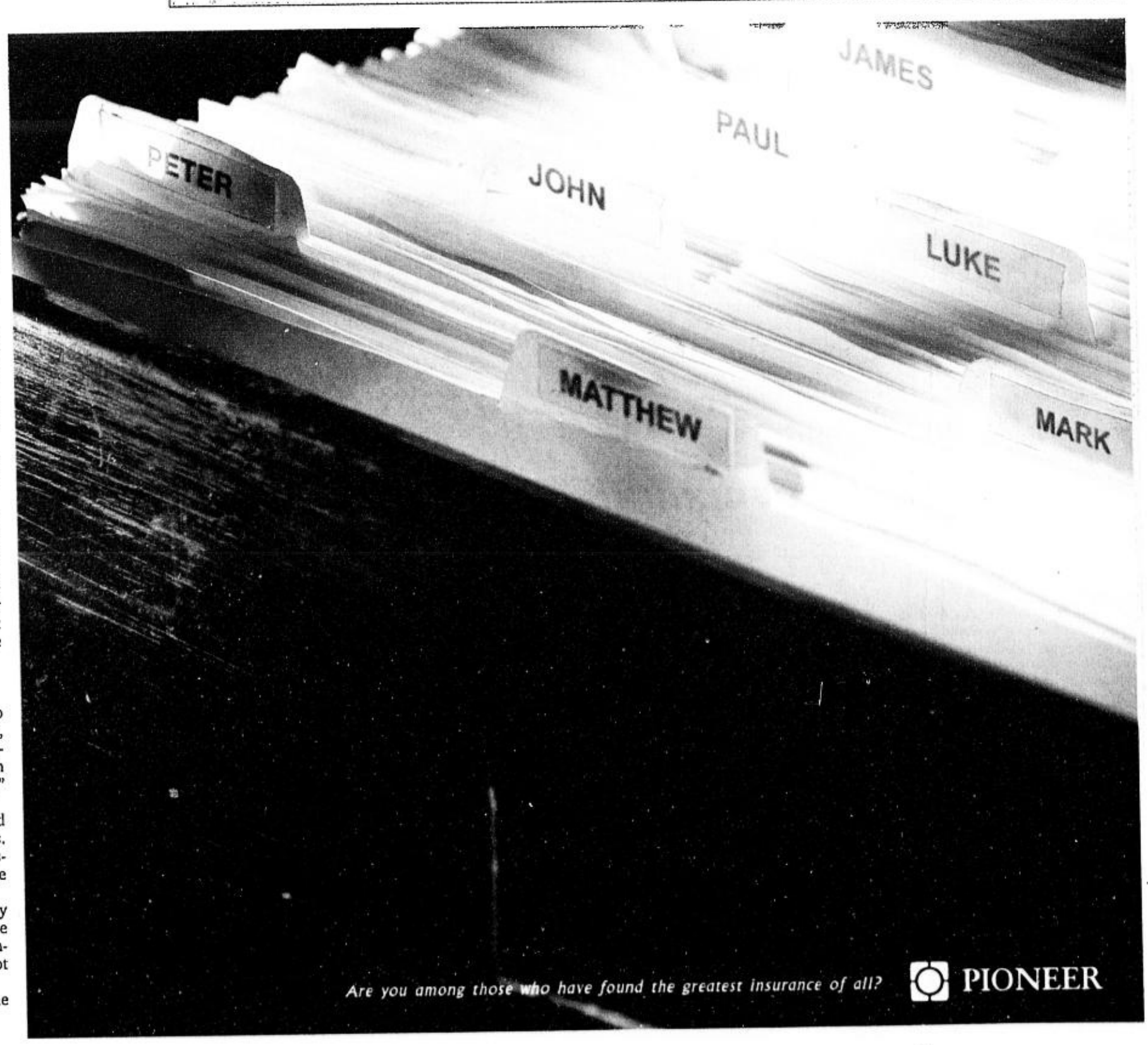
## Lifetime of regrets

"But whatever their reason is, I explain to them that it's not the baby's fault. Besides, what's nine months (of pregnancy) compared to a lifetime of regrets? I share with them lessons I myself have learned," Balderas added.

Maybe that's her mission in life, she said reflectively. Still, she has no complaints. Strangers have come up to her, Balderas disclosed, thanking her for giving them hope and changing their lives.

"That's one of the sweetest part of my work as a volunteer—learning about these women who changed their minds after considering abortion. But I always tell them not to thank me but God," she said.

Her angels at the Home and at home would be proud of her.

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Text us your feedback:
inquirer gp name/age/city/message
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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

# Home for those forced to come home

## Where workers make a stopover, makeover

By Nikko Dizon

THE ROOM LOOKS LIKE A BIG OFFICE SPACE in a government building.

It has modest furniture, wooden walls, sparse décor. It is also quiet, except for the hum of the cool air conditioning and the soft steps of a couple of staff members manning the place.

But for the repatriated Filipino workers who seek temporary dwelling here, it is almost home-their last stop before finally returning to their own homes and families after suffering from traumatic experiences in their work abroad that forced them to return to the Philippines.

### One-year-old home

The Halfway Home of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) will turn a year old on April 26.

And for that length of time, for 24 hours, seven days a week, it's doors have been thrown wide open for Filipino workers whose dreams for a better life had been rudely cut short by incidents ranging from maltreatment to harsh working conditions; from sexual abuse to homesickness.

"Most of the Filipino workers who stay at the Halfway Home are repatriated workers with no families or a place to stay in Manila while arrangements are being made for their trip back to their home provinces," Connie Marquez, chief of the Owwa Repatriation and Assistance Division which oversees the Halfway Home.

Majority of those who stay at the Home are domestic helpers repatriated from Middle Eastern countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman and Qatar.

### Male workers

The handful of male OFWs who seek temporary shelter are usually laborers.

The agency have always had a temporary shelter for repatriated OFWs, but Marquez said Owwa Administrator Marianito Roque thought the Filipino workers deserve to stay in a place where they can have the comforts of a real home.

Thus the spacious office of the Repatriation and Assistance Division located at the second floor of the Owwa building on Buendia Extension in Pasay City was converted into the Halfway Home. (The division moved to another room just across the Home.)

The Halfway home has a large living room, a dining area, and a dormitory-style bedroom with 28 double deck beds and lockers. It also has two toilets and six shower areas.

The Home also has a counseling room.

### House parents

The women stay at the second floor, Marquez said, while the men have their own smaller dormitory.

The Home is manned by "house parents", who work in shifts.

OFWs who live in provinces in Luzon can stay for a maximum of three days at the Home, while those who have to travel back to the Visayas and Mindanao are allowed to stay for a week.

They are not, however, allowed to go out of the Home, say, to shop at the nearby mall.

"They are our responsibility and we don't want anything to happen to them. If they really need to buy something, our staff accompanies them," Marquez said.

### Conciliation meetings

Aside from providing temporary shelter, the various problems of the OFWs are also being assessed at the Home.

"We conduct conciliation with recruitment agencies, contact their families, provide hospitalization for those with physical or mental illness, and transportation-shouldered either by the agency or Owwa—and of course, we provide them food. All of these are for free," Marquez said.

Most of the OFWs who "check in" at the Home are usually stressed or tense. Some are even in a state of shock.

Marquez recalled a tearful scene about two weeks ago, when an OFW in her late 20s-who suffered from extreme homesickness-came back distressed.

The woman's husband came with their two young children to pick her up at the Home.

### Trauma

"But she couldn't recognize them-the husband, the children. But after a while, she hugged the younger child. *Nakakaiyak* (It was a tearful scene.)," Marquez said.

"*Sa* airport *pa lang, may ilang* repatriated who are already very happy once the plane lands at the Naia. But for those *na talagang* traumatic *ang* experience, *nag*-land *na ang eroplano, tulala pa rin sila.* We have to tell some of them *na puede na* relax *na kayo kasi andito na kayo sa* Pilipinas," Marquez added.

WHERE THE BOYS ARE. From left, Lorenzo Arnigo, Romeo Eneluna, Philip Ubenza, and Dennis Ocfemia wait for their next employment contract. ERIK ARAZAS

# 2nd family for those who are leaving

By Leila B. Salaverria

BOUND BY THE SAME DREAM OF FINDING WORK ABROAD while avoiding the horrors experienced by others, these people have found the right help.

Romeo Eneluna remembers looking for an overseas job a year ago. Confused and on unfamiliar ground, he wandered along Taft Avenue looking for a recruitment agency.

"I didn't know what to do. I did not even have any of the requirements an agency was asking for, not even an ID picture," Eneluna recalls.

After submitting the proper documents, he was offered a job in Riyadh that paid too little but required long working hours. He decided to put his plan on hold.

Dennis Ocfemia, a security guard in a Makati-based firm, hopes to go abroad like his siblings. But he worries about falling victim to illegal recruiters. This fear is shared by Lorenzo Arnigo, though he is willing to accept any job abroad.

### Family club

Three men have pinned their hopes of setting out without any anxiety on the OFW Family Club (OFC).

The OFC, says OFC chair Minerva Señeres, aims to provide various kinds of assistance to OFWs and their families to promote and improve their well-being.

Now with about 400,000 members, it is funded by sponsors of the radio programs that the Señeres couple, Roy and Minerva, and daughter Hannah host.

Eneluna, Ocfemia, and Arnigo are all members of the OFC's 400-strong Mandaluyong chapter headed by Philip Obenza, whom they fondly call their "tatay-tatayan".

Obenza helps them look for an overseas job and, through the OFC, exposes them to the grim realities of life as an OFW, and the problems faced by the family left behind.

"We want them to learn the proper steps to becoming an OFW so they will not have problems in the future," Obenza says.

He makes members attend the pre-employment orientation seminars at the OFC main office on Taft Avenue in Pasay City.

### One of a kind

Minerva says the pre-employment seminars, which she and OFC office manager Lily Salhay conduct twice weekly, is one of a kind. It teaches people the proper way to look for an overseas job so they do not fall prey to illegal recruiters or bad employers. It also informs them of their rights and benefits.

She says it is different from the pre-departure seminars the government conducts, which is meant for those who have been hired.

The OFC's seminar is free and open to anyone, including former OFWs who have had bad experiences abroad. Helenita Aristan says she was unable to save when she worked in Saudi Arabia because of a waiver her agency made her to sign allowing her employer to reduce her salary occasionally.

She attends the OFC seminar because she wants to go abroad again but would like to be able to choose a reputable agency next time.

GETTING READY. Lily Salhay lectures future OFWS on the dos and don'ts of working abroad. REM ZAMORA

She brought son Niel, who also wants to work abroad.

Ocfemia says through the OFC chapter's weekly meetings in a botanical garden, he learns from the experiences of other OFWs.

"I've heard many stories of how they come home and spend so much here that they have to borrow money so that they are able to leave again," he says.

### How to keep family ties strong

Arnigo says he's already aware that homesickness will be a major problem when he goes abroad.

"I know I will face that, but I've prepared myself for it," he says.

Minerva says homesickness is one thing that can tear apart families with OFW members. She says it is the reason why husbands or wives commit infidelity, and later, abandon their families.

This is the reason, Minerva says, why OFC focuses on teaching OFWs to keep family ties strong.

"We tell them that they went abroad to provide for their families, so they shouldn't destroy them," she says.

Minerva adds that the OFC teaches OFWs' families how to use the Internet to communicate with loved ones, reminding them to call abroad regularly to keep ties strong.

Obenza says when problems crop up in the families the OFWs left, the OFC often comes to the rescue.

He recalls one time when the daughter of an OFW ran away after her mother scolded her. Distraught, the mother sought the OFC's help. Obenza found the girl in Tanay, Rizal, and asked her to go home.

Obenza also says one problem aired during the OFC's meetings are delays in sending money back home.

To solve this, the OFC Mandaluyong extends loans at low interest rates to members. It also has a livelihood program, selling steel kiosks to be used to sell street food like fishball.

### Don't just rely on OFWs

"I tell the families that it's important that they work, too, and not just rely on the OFW," Obenza says.

Minerva says self-sufficiency of OFWs' families is one thing OFC promotes. At the OFC main office, members are also offered E-load businesses.

"The whole family should work together for their survival," she says.

Obenza says the OFC Mandaluyong offers assistance for funerals, soliciting free coffins from funeral parlors. He has also found college scholarships for at least 19 children of members.

The OFC main office, which handles major problems chapters cannot resolve, makes available on Saturdays the services of volunteer doctors and lawyers for consultation.

Minerva says many requests for assistance received by OFC involve employers who abuse or defraud OFWs.

The OFC usually writes to the Philippine embassies concerned or the Department of Foreign Affairs about the problem.

She laments that sometimes the embassies have been unable to help, even making the OFWs return to their abusive employers.

But at least "when we call or write to the embassies or the DFA and they see the name of the OFW Family Club or Ambassador Señeres, they usually respond and help the OFW," she says.

Roy Señeres, the former UAE ambassador, is best known for helping Sarah Balabagan, a teenager sentenced to death in the UAE. With the help of Señeres, the death sentence was scrapped and she was able to return to the country.

Minerva says the OFWs' seemingly endless cries for help inspired her husband Roy to set up the OFC.

His wife and six children, who were used to sharing their home with runaway Filipinos, agreed to help.

Aside from providing assistance, the OFC also offers members, like Eneluna, Ocfemia, and Arnigo, a second home.

### Happy place

The OFC Mandaluyong has no formal office, so Obenza's house has become a favorite meeting place.

Ocfemia says they go to the house even if there is no meeting.

"It's a happy place. (Obenza) is a good comedian. You'll cry when you're there from laughing too much," Eneluna says.

Arnigo says even if members have problems, they are able to forget them when the group gets together.

The closeness is evident. When the INQUIRER interviewed the members of the OFC in Mandaluyong, they joked with each other and laughed as they talked about the activities of the club.

Obenza says he and his wife Noli, who helps him run the chapter, enjoy having the OFC members in their home.

"We're really just like a family," he says.

# *A seminar that can make or break an OFW*

By Jerome Aning

PLACEMENT AGENCIES BASED IN LEbanon may have their accreditation to hire overseas Filipino workers cancelled if they persist in violating Philippine government standards such as inadequate orientation, low salaries, poor working conditions and unjust salary deductions.

The recruitment association deploying workers to Lebanon has asked Philippine Overseas Employees Administration chief Rosalinda Baldoz to impose sanctions on agencies indirectly blamed for the rising number of runaway Filipinos, especially domestics, in the Eastern Mediterranean country.

The Philippine Association of Mediterranean Agencies Deploying to Lebanon (Pamadel) wants POEA to ensure that all agencies, including non-Pamadel members, to give domestics and other Lebanon-bound workers proper pre-departure orientation seminars (PDOS) so they may be briefed on what to expect when they get there.

### Verbal, physical abuse

Pamadel members led by its president Lita Hizon discussed with Baldoz two weeks ago problems besetting OFWs in Lebanon as well as in Jordan and Cyprus such as the high number of accidents, deaths, as well as runaways who complained of low salaries, maltreatment, verbal and physical, sexual harassment and prostitution.

Hizon said Pamadel members were "firm and resolute" in the salary issue wherein domestic helpers should be paid the POEA standard of $200 a month. Philippine licensed agencies agreeing with their Lebanese counterparts for lower salary of $150 should not be allowed to recruit Filipino workers.

### No proper briefing

Most of the Filipino runaways, about 45 of them housed in the OWWA Center at the Philippine Embassy, had complaints on salary. The domestics claimed they were contracts in the Philippines stating a $200-a-month but upon reaching Lebanon, their salaries are reduced by $50 under a second contract forged upon reaching a work destination.

Many of the helpers, Pamadel said, did not undergo proper briefing procedures on culture, correct training in domestic help work, poor English communication skills. Some were psychologically unprepared to work abroad, it added.

"Those Lebanese agencies responsible for the violation of the standard contracts of these domestic helpers will be reprimanded and their accreditation should be cancelled by the POEA," Hizon added.

OFW deployment to Lebanon has increased for the past two years, with 14,936 workers were deployed in 2005, an increase of 92 percent from the previous year's 7,795 workers.

### What's PDOS

The pre-departure orientation seminar is given to the OFWs to provide them information on the laws, customs and working conditions in their countries of destination. It also informs OFWs of their rights and obligations as migrant workers.

Even other countries recognize the importance of PDOS. For instance, the United Arab Emirates provides expatriate workers additional seminars and free brochures on its laws, culture and related issues.

Time was when the government solely conducted the PDOS for OFWs.

But with the ever-increasing number of overseas Filipinos, the government found it convenient to delegate the seminar to private organizations and companies. At present, the government provides PDOS only for workers OWWA itself deploys.

### Who gives PDOS

Sadly, the liberalization of the PDOS has rendered it ineffective in accomplishing the goal of making OFWs work relatively trouble-free, according to industry sources.

Records show that OWWA has accredited as many as 303 recruitment agencies, 14 non-governmental organizations, five associations of placement agencies, and three private groups to give the seminar.

With the government turning its back on a most important service to OFWs, any Tom, Dick and Harry can now provide PDOS to departing OFWs for a fee. the sources added.

Though the Department of Labor has asserted that it thoroughly screens those who apply to become PDOS providers, the reality is that many PDOS providers neither have the technical expertise nor the desire and inclination to make the PDOS really work.

### For a fee

For some providers, the PDOS is purely a money-making scheme, reinforcing a cut-throat competition among them.

But as PDOS providers engage in a frenzy by collecting not only PDOS fees but also forcing departing OFWs to buy from them a number of products and services, at the expense of a quality seminar, the sources said.

As a result, many OFWs have gotten entangled with the laws of their host countries, with fellow workers, as well as their employers.

With the failure of the PDOS to prepare OFWs psychologically on the rigors of working abroad, many of them have also ran away from their respective employers, awaiting repatriation at Philippine embassies and consulates.

### Preventable crimes

Industry insiders lament that many crimes and other transgressions committed by OFWs are preventable if only the government had not turned its back on its responsibility to provide an honest-to-goodness PDOS to them.

"The PDOS has become a milking cow for the accredited PDOS providers and for those who accredit them," said Rene, a recruiter.

Recruiters who conduct the PDOS have become wittingly or unwittingly the biggest exploiters of OFWs, he added. *With reports from Gerry Lirio*

# Chocolates, canned goods top favorite gift items

By Kate Pedroso

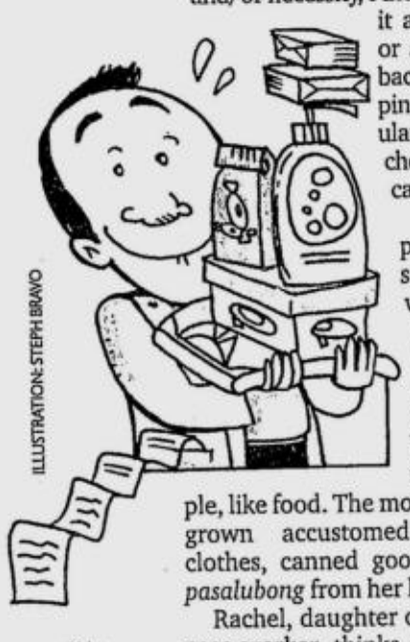
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

OUT OF THOUGHTFULNESS and/or necessity, Pinoys abroad make it a point to bring or send something back home. Topping the list of popular *pasalubong* are chocolates and canned goods.

"We go for practical items," says Belle, whose husband has been a seafarer for more than 10 years, things that will benefit the most number of people, like food. The mother of three has grown accustomed to receiving clothes, canned goods and soap as *pasalubong* from her husband.

Rachel, daughter of a former overseas worker, thinks this is the same reason why chocolates are popular pasalubong. "*Alam mo naman tayong mga Pilipino, hanggat kayang bigyan lahat, bibigyan lahat. Kahit tatlong piraso lang ng* (Hersheys) Kisses *bawat kamag-anak.*"

Other favorite *pasalubong* items, according to *balikbayan* and their relatives interviewed by the INQUIRER, include clothes, shoes, soap, shampoo, toys, cigarettes, liquor and perfume.

Research manager Jing, who is currently in New York, says, aside from chocolates like Maltesers, Lindt, Hersheys, Cadbury and Ferrero, signature clothes from U2, Gucci, Calvin Klein and Guess also top her list of favorite *pasalubong* items "because they are cheaper bought here."

Soap, big cans of coffee and towels top Guam-based Efren's *pasalubong* list, while Canada-based Mando's list includes T-shirts, polo shirts, rubber shoes, shampoo and perfume, wallets, Barbie dolls, towels, corned beef, chocolates, baseball caps, Marlboro cigarettes and liquor like Johnny Walker whisky.

Popular branded items for *pasalubong* include Eddie Bauer bags, Estee Lauder cologne, Sunkist pistachios, books from Barnes&Noble, Jergens lotion, Dove, Irish Spring and Dial soap and, of course, Spam.

Two reasons stand out why these items are chosen as pasalubong: they are cheaper bought abroad or they are not available in the country.

## Pre-packed by Forex Cargo

In fact, a company has started offering pre-packed balikbayan boxes for those who have no time to pack their own. Forex Cargo, Inc. offers pre-packed boxes in *bulilit* and medium sizes and can be ordered over the Internet. The boxes contain more commonly sent items, collected by the company based on a customer's suggestions, Divine Geraldo of Forex Cargo (Phil) Inc. Complaints Desk said.

The boxes contain products ranging from Swiss Miss hot chocolate and Nestea Iced Tea powdered mixes, canned goods (i.e. Libbys Vienna sausage, Palm corned beef, Tulip luncheon meat, Hunts spaghetti sauce), assorted Hersheys chocolates, coffee (i.e. Tasters Choice, Folgers), snack items (i.e. Pringles, Piknik) and cookies (i.e. Chips Ahoy, Oreo), sometimes even instant noodles and jasmine rice.

Basically, both boxes contain similar items, the medium-sized container just having more of a particular product, as well as some additional items not found in the bulilit box.

These pre-packed boxes, which have been available for about 10 years now, sell for US$85 and US$130 for Metro Manila areas and US$92 and US$137 for provincial areas, according to latest prices posted on the company's website (http://www.forexworld.com.ph).

Filipinos in Australia, Austria, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Guam, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States can send these pre-packed boxes through Forex Cargo, Inc. or its affiliates to drop-off points in Bacolod, Bohol, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Tacloban and Zamboanga.

### FAST FACTS

**OFWs by gender and by region**
(October 2003 & 2004, in thousands)

| | 2003 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| NCR | 116 | 66 | 121 | 73 |
| Calabarzon | 113 | 57 | 110 | 80 |
| Central Luzon | 65 | 54 | 90 | 59 |
| W. Visayas | 49 | 50 | 38 | 53 |
| C. Visayas | 29 | 23 | 33 | 16 |
| Ilocos | 31 | 51 | 25 | 61 |
| Bicol | 18 | 14 | 16 | 16 |
| ARMM | 4 | 9 | 15 | 17 |
| Northern Mindanao | 16 | 11 | 13 | 14 |
| Cagayan Valley | 13 | 50 | 12 | 45 |
| Soccsksargen | 10 | 21 | 11 | 19 |
| Davao | 9 | 23 | 10 | 25 |
| E. Visayas | 13 | 7 | 9 | 14 |
| CAR | 7 | 13 | 6 | 18 |
| Zamb'nga Peninsula | 6 | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| Mimaropa | 6 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| Caraga | 5 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| Total | 510 | 474 | 523 | 539 |

Source: NSO's 2004 Survey on Overseas Filipinos — Compiled by PDI Research


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- Detour (09209220829 • QC: Visayas Avenue)
- Joven (6456029 • Pasig: Amang Rodriguez Avenue, Santolan)
- The Bike Room (5516228 • Pasay: 2190 Leveriza Street, Cartimar)
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# Bush backs Rumsfeld against resignation calls

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush declared his "full support" for embattled US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Friday, moving to quell calls for Rumsfeld's resignation by a growing numbers of retired generals.

"Secretary Rumsfeld's energetic and steady leadership is exactly what is needed at this critical period," Bush said in a statement. "He has my full support and deepest appreciation." Bush stepped in after six retired generals called for Rumsfeld's ouster, exposing a deep vein of discontent with his leadership within the military.

The generals, several of whom held key combat commands and staff positions, accused Rumsfeld of an arrogant disregard for military advice and for providing too few troops to pacify Iraq.

However, retired General Richard Myers, the former chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, rushed to Rumsfeld's defense.

RUMSFELD REUTERS

"My whole perception of this is it's bad for the military, and for military relations, and it's very bad for the country, potentially, because what we are hearing and what we are seeing is not the role the military play in our society," Myers said in an interview with CNN, broadcast Friday.

Bush, who was at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, praised Rumsfeld's leadership after talking with him earlier Friday about US military operations.

"I have seen first-hand how Don relies upon our military commanders in the field and at the Pentagon to make decisions about how best to complete these missions," Bush said.

Rumsfeld, 73, rejected the calls for his ouster in an interview with Dubai-based Al Arabiya television that aired Friday, but was conducted Thursday.

"I intend to serve the president at his pleasure," he said.

Rumsfeld said the retired generals had a right to their views.

"But obviously if, out of thousands and thousands of admirals and generals, if every time two or three people disagreed we changed the secretary of defense of the United States, it would be like a merry-go-round," he said.

He also rejected criticism that he had not given his commanders the troops they needed to pacify Iraq, a key contention of the retired generals.

The retired generals have called for Rumsfeld's resignation in a recent sequence of opinion pieces and television interviews that bitterly criticized his leadership style and the decisions he took in going to war with Iraq.

With one after another voicing similar complaints, the calls have taken on the appearance of a choreographed campaign.

But retired major general John Batiste, a former commander of the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq, said it was not orchestrated, but a spontaneous outpouring of discontent that had built over a long time.

"I think it's absolutely coincidental," he said on NBC television.

Batiste said he had not talked to any of the other generals about his decision before coming out against Rumsfeld on Wednesday.

But he said the officers shared their feelings privately when they were on active duty.

"We were all disgruntled," he said in an interview with PBS television.

The attacks prompted a vehement defense of Rumsfeld earlier this week by General Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Lt. Gen. John Vines, the number two commander in Iraq, also spoke out for Rumsfeld, telling The New York Times, "I support my secretary of defense." The eruption of military discontent has come just after the third anniversary of the fall of Baghdad, with no clear exit for the 132,000 US troops there in sight.

The retired generals have said fresh thinking is needed on Iraq, but none have called for a withdrawal of US forces or put forward fundamentally different ideas for pacifying the country.

Instead, much of the discussion has been about holding Rumsfeld accountable for committing too few troops to the war, not planning for the aftermath of the invasion and other early decisions such as the disbanding the Iraqi army.

The retired generals appeared to be even angrier about Rumsfeld's rough treatment of top military officers.

The case most often cited is that of former army chief of staff, General Eric Shinseki, who was rebuked and sidelined after he warned Congress before the war that occupying Iraq would require several hundred thousand troops.

"And as I recall, the secretary didn't even go to his retirement ceremony; I have never forgotten that," said Batiste. *AFP*

# Berlusconi still defiant but election hopes fade

ROME—PRIME MINISTER SILVIO BERLUSconi's battle to stay in power suffered a crippling blow Friday as the interior ministry announced there were too few disputed votes to overturn rival Romano Prodi's election victory.

Prodi immediately reiterated his claim to victory in this week's polls, telling journalists outside his home in Bologna: "The game's over". "It's time that we close this strange comedy and move forward," the 66-year-old former EU Commission president said.

Italy's supreme court, the Corte di Cassazione, still has to rubber stamp the provisional result of last Sunday and Monday's election, but can only do so once the ongoing recount of disputed votes is complete.

But a defiant Berlusconi refused to back down late Friday.

"They haven't won yet," he told journalists, claiming his center-right coalition were "the moral victors" after the recount had shown irregularities in the foreign vote.

"I'm an optimist, a fighter," a buoyant Berlusconi told Italian Sky television after watching AC Milan, the team he owns, beat its city rivals Internazionale.

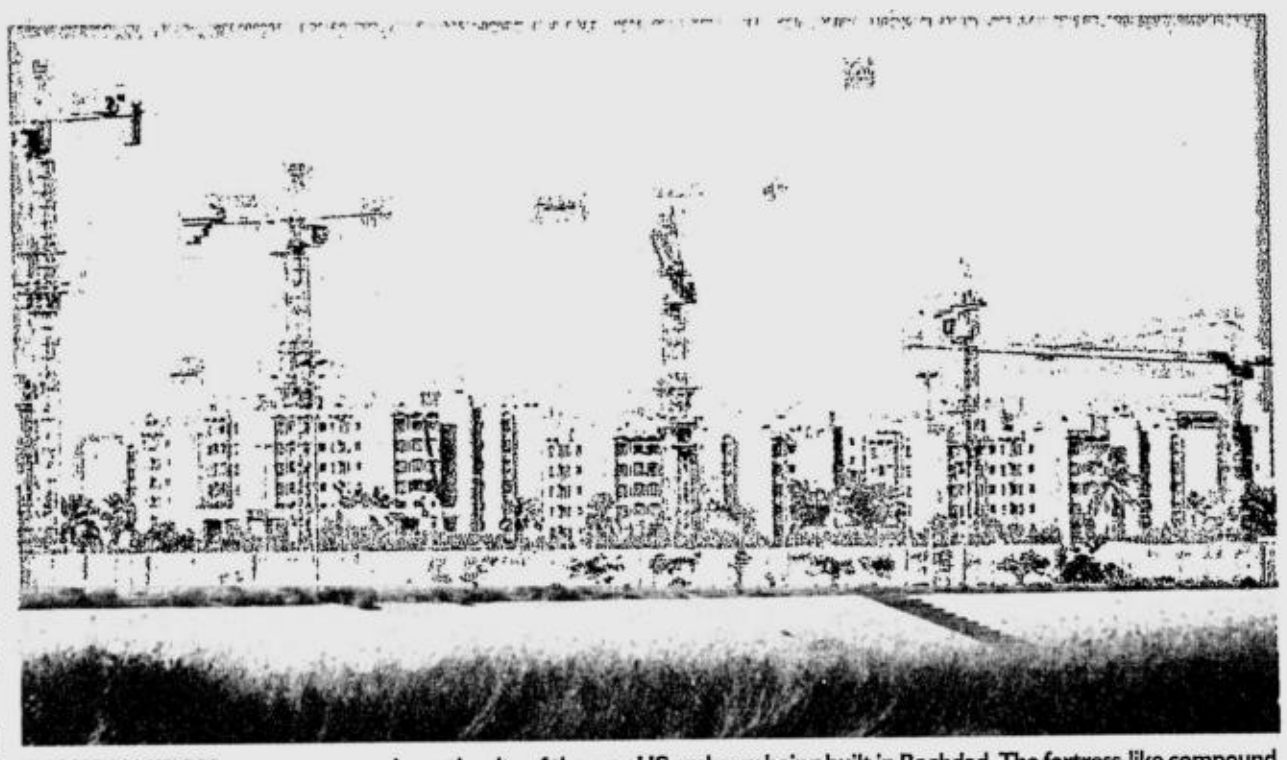
"If you allow me to use a Latin expression: 'Dum spiro, Spero' (While I breathe, I hope.)"

But patience for Berlusconi's stance was growing thin, even from within his own coalition.

Justice Minister Roberto Castelli said Berlusconi's latest comments were "disconcerting" adding that the prime minister ran the risk of "tearing apart the coalition."

In a letter to be published Saturday in the daily Corriere della Sera, Berlusconi proposed the rival coalitions forge a short-term agreement "to meet the country's immediate institutional, economic and international timetable."

Berlusconi wrote that Italy was faced with "a stalemate, with a situation in which, at least based on the popular vote, there will be neither winners nor losers." "However the official count of the electoral result ends up, and whoever is attributed the majority in the Chamber of Deputies, things (for the country) are not going to change." *AFP*



**CONSTRUCTION** cranes are seen above the site of the new US embassy being built in Baghdad. The fortress-like compound rising on the banks of the Tigris River will be the largest of its kind in the world, the size of Vatican City in Rome. AP

# New Baghdad embassy dwarfs other US missions worldwide

BAGHDAD—THE FORTRESS-LIKE compound rising beside the Tigris River here will be the largest of its kind in the world, the size of Vatican City, with the population of a small town, its own defense force, self-contained power and water, and a precarious perch at the heart of Iraq's turbulent future.

The new US Embassy also seems as cloaked in secrecy as the ministate in Rome.

"We can't talk about it. Security reasons," Roberta Rossi, a spokeswoman at the current embassy, said when asked for information about the project.

A British tabloid even told readers the location was being kept secret—news that would surprise Baghdadis who for months have watched the forest of construction cranes at work across the winding Tigris, at the very center of their city and within easy mortar range of anti-US forces in the capital, though fewer explode there these days.

The embassy complex—21 buildings on 42 hectares, according to a US Senate Foreign Relations Committee report—is taking shape on riverside parkland in the fortified "Green Zone," just east of al-Samoud, a former palace of Saddam Hussein's, and across the road from the building where the ex-dictator is now on trial.

The Republican Palace, where US Embassy functions are temporarily housed in cubicles among the chandelier-hung rooms, is about a kilometer away in the 10-sq. km zone, an enclave of American and Iraqi government offices and lodgings ringed by kilometers of concrete barriers.

The 5,500 Americans and Iraqis working at the embassy, almost half listed as security, are far more numerous than at any other US mission worldwide. They rarely venture out into the "Red Zone," that is, violence-torn Iraq.

This huge American contingent at the center of power has drawn criticism.

"The presence of a massive US embassy—by far the largest in the world—co-located in the Green Zone with the Iraqi government is seen by Iraqis as an indication of who actually exercises power in their country," the International Crisis Group, a European-based research group, said in one of its periodic reports on Iraq.

State Department spokesman Justin Higgins defended the size of the embassy, old and new, saying it's indicative of the work facing the United States here.

"It's somewhat self-evident that there's going to be a fairly sizable commitment to Iraq by the US government in all forms for several years," he said in Washington.

Higgins noted that large numbers of non-diplomats work at the mission—hundreds of military personnel and dozens of FBI agents, for example, along with representatives of the Agriculture, Commerce and other US federal departments. *AP*

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — OF SPRING

**ACROSS**

1 Ran, as liquid
7 Having serrations
15 Full of grasslike plants
20 Large gully
21 A couple
22 Habituate (to)
23 Airedale from abroad?
25 Golfer Stadler
26 Grey of western novels
27 "Rome — built in a day"
28 Switch positions
29 Silent Marx brother
30 Suffix with priest
31 Thespian Thurman
33 Leavening agent exploded?
36 Bicycle wheel parts
39 Island neckwear
40 Cowboy flicks
41 Tiny parasites are really frightening?
46 Prince Harry's alma mater
48 Trent of Mississippi
49 Motor
50 — were (so to speak)
51 Planets, e.g.
55 Painters, e.g.
57 Turn sharply
59 Dryness
61 Steinway, say
62 Most correct?
65 Not detained
68 Confined con
69 Some Manhattan residents' sound systems?
74 Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy"
79 Transit company references
80 Algerian port
81 Indy 500 team
83 Not out of view
84 Env. alert
86 Caught in a web
89 Dial —
90 Jai —
91 What gives ratite birds bulging muscles?
93 A question of self-discovery
97 Dashboard letters
99 Achieve
100 Gigantic celestial body?
104 Doctrine suffix
105 Write hastily
108 Muslim rulers
109 Taking after
110 "The Wild Swans at —" (Yeats poem)
113 Mama's mate
114 Exploded stars
115 Rookie movie buff?
119 Minos' isle
120 Behind closed doors
121 Home to Strauss
122 Squiggly letters
123 Wobble atop
124 Holiday found in this puzzle's eight longest answers

**DOWN**

1 Solidified in the cold
2 Molten rocks
3 Pizza huts?
4 Tightrope
5 Naval off.
6 Whoop- — -doo
7 Slugger Sammy
8 Pantry pests
9 Teeny- —
10 High-calorie cake
11 Bruin Bobby
12 Slothful
13 ATM fillers
14 Derby racer
15 Chinese cuisine
16 Spellbound
17 Eva Peron's maiden name
18 Bellyaching sort
19 "By Jove!"
24 Rouses
31 Package delivery co.
32 Church song
34 Rita Hayworth's Khan
35 Plant disease
36 Shiny fabric
37 Joule part
38 Respectful Indian title
41 Hullabaloo
42 Actress Singer
43 Jazzwoman James
44 Raid participant
45 Honoraria
47 Pope topper
50 "There — absolutes"
51 Pindaric poem
52 Carnival city
53 Air conditioner abbr.
54 Pt. of DOS
56 March master John Philip —
58 Saint- — (capital of Loire)
60 Like argon
62 French article
63 Rocker John
64 Apt. units
66 Katmandu natives
67 "— la vista!"
69 "CSI: NY" network
70 Shade
71 Journal addition?
72 Pre-O trio
73 Too hasty
75 Follow, as a suggestion
76 "Star Trek" counselor Deanna
77 Dispatch
78 Is in the red
81 More trifling
82 Inklings
85 Historian's visual aid
87 Car-towing org.
88 Q followers
90 Gathers up
91 Plato's P
92 Periphery
93 From where
94 Indulges
95 Pointed arches
96 Make bubbly
98 Move like a 14-Down
101 Meant but not said
102 "Veni," translated
103 One giving a portion of medicine
105 Excursion
106 Voice views
107 Turkic language
111 Other, to Oswaldo
112 Slender
113 Chief exec.
116 Choke down
117 Holiday lead-in
118 Org. with moles

answer on page A32

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Chad breaks ties with Sudan

N'DJAMENA—Chad's President Idriss Deby on Friday broke diplomatic ties with neighbor Sudan, which he accused of trying to topple him, and warned that his country could stop sheltering thousands of Sudanese refugees. A day after rebels battled the army in a raid on the capital, the government paraded what it said were 160 captured rebels and 14 vehicles at a rally in N'Djamena. "We have taken the decision to break our diplomatic relations with Sudan today and to proceed to close our frontiers," said Deby, wearing a dark suit and tinted glasses. Sudan, which has denied helping anti-Deby rebels, responded by saying it would expel Chad's ambassador. *Reuters*

### 14 dead in Indon train collision

JAKARTA—Two trains collided in Indonesia's Central Java province on Saturday killing 14 people and injuring 12, police said. The early-morning accident occurred when two trains bound from Jakarta to Surabaya, Indonesia's second city, collided, a police official at Gubug near the crash site said. "According to the latest information, 14 people are killed and 12 are injured," police official Winarno told Reuters. One of the train drivers was among the dead. He said hundreds of passengers had been evacuated from the scene, and the busy line closed to all traffic. One of the locomotives derailed and plunged into a paddy field, the police official said. *Reuters*

### Nepal protests intensify

KATHMANDU—Thousands of people staged a pro-democracy protest in Kathmandu on Saturday, the largest turnout in Nepal's capital since the latest campaign against King Gyanendra was launched. About 8,000 people gathered in the Kalanki suburb on the western outskirts of the city, chanting slogans as they sat cross-legged on the road. "Down with autocracy, restore democracy," they shouted, waving red flags of protest as riot police watched. Onlookers in nearby shops and houses cheered. At another place in the city, police charged with batons to break up a protest by local journalists and arrested at least a dozen people, witnesses said. Several journalists were hurt, they said. *Reuters*

### Explosions rock New Delhi mosque

NEW DELHI—India stepped up security Saturday, a day after twin blasts shook New Delhi's main mosque shortly before evening prayers, injuring 13, and a series of grenade attacks by suspected separatist rebels killed at least five people in insurgency-wracked Indian Kashmir. The explosions at the Jama Masjid, the 17th century imposing red sandstone complex that is the heart of New Delhi's crowded old city, came about an hour before evening prayers were to be made. "People were walking around and suddenly—boom!—there was a bomb," said Mohammed Salaudi, who was inside the mosque when the first explosion took place. The blasts occurred within 30 minutes of each other, said K.K. Paul, New Delhi's police chief. No one has claimed responsibility for the explosions. *AP*

### 2 US Marines killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Two US marines were killed and 22 wounded in enemy action in Iraq's western Al Anbar province, the US military announced Saturday. The latest casualties occurred on Thursday. The military said one marine assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group died at the scene of the attack, while the other assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died at a medical facility. Eight wounded marines, all assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5, were evacuated by air to a medical facility in Balad. *AFP*

### 9 suspects in Kashmir blasts nabbed

SRINAGAR, India—Nine suspected Islamic militants have been arrested over serial blasts in Indian Kashmir that killed five people and injured 43, a senior officer said Saturday. The seven grenade blasts occurred Friday in the summer capital Srinagar, regarded as the urban hub of a deadly 16-year revolt against New Delhi's rule in Indian Kashmir. All nine arrested men were suspected of belonging to a pro-Pakistan Islamic militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed, said the region's police chief, Gopal Sharma. "Our swift investigations have lead to the arrest of nine militants involved in these attacks," that killed five civilians and injured 43 people, including 14 security men, Sharma told reporters in Srinagar. *AFP*

# 41 Taliban, 6 police slain in major Afghan battle

KANDAHAR—FORTY-ONE SUSPECTED TALIBAN and six policemen were killed in a major battle in southern Afghanistan in an area where the Taliban leader once lived, a governor said Saturday.

The battle southwest of Kandahar City lasted almost the entire day Friday, with helicopters from the US-led coalition firing rockets in support of Afghan forces on the ground.

"In the result, 41 Taliban were killed, a big number of them were wounded," Kandahar governor Assadullah Khalid told AFP.

"Six police were martyred, nine police were wounded," he said, adding that three civilians were also wounded and 13 Taliban arrested.

The dead included a district police chief while a district governor was among the wounded, he said.

Khalid said Taliban fighters had gathered in the area, which includes the Panjwayi and Ziari districts about 40 km southwest of Kandahar city, for about three days after fleeing an offensive in neighboring Helmand province.

"Police surrounded them. The fighting started yesterday (Friday) morning and it continued up to the evening. In the evening, Afghan army and coalition forces came to support police," he said.

By the time coalition forces had started firing rockets, civilians had left, Khalid said.

The area includes the village of Singesar where fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar lived for several years.

It was in the village that, according to reports, he rallied a group of Taliban religious scholars to take up arms in 1994 to free two teenage girls who had been kidnapped and raped. This in effect launched the radical Taliban movement.

Under the one-eyed Omar, the Islamist Taliban movement rose from Kandahar to take power of most of Afghanistan in 1996 after a bitter four-year civil war among commanders of the anti-Soviet resistance of the 1980s. *AFP*

# US pushes sanctions on Iran

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES will push its allies next week to consider targeted sanctions on Iran that include a freeze on assets and visa restrictions, the State Department said on Friday.

Political directors from the main powers involved in trying to rein in Iran's nuclear programs are due to meet in Moscow on Tuesday to discuss what action to take after Tehran announced this week it had become a nuclear power by enriching uranium.

The senior officials from France, Germany, Britain, the United States, Russia and China will look at "real actions" the United Nations can take to get Iran to change its behavior, said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

The options under a Chapter 7 resolution under the UN charter could include a freeze on assets and travel restrictions on some members of the Iranian government, said McCormack.

"These are all levers at the disposal of the international community," McCormack told reporters.

While pushing for sanctions, US officials said they would not look at imposing restrictions on the oil and gas sectors, pointing out the intention was not to create further hardship for the Iranian people.

In an interview with Voice of America's Persian language television program, senior State Department official Nicholas Burns said Tehran would face sanctions and that Iran had left itself "no exit points" on the Iran issue.

"We very much hope that these sanctions will not be implemented bluntly in a way that would be damaging to the Iranian people, but it is going to be sanctions that will get the attention of the Iranian government," said Burns, who will represent the State Department at Tuesday's Moscow meetings.

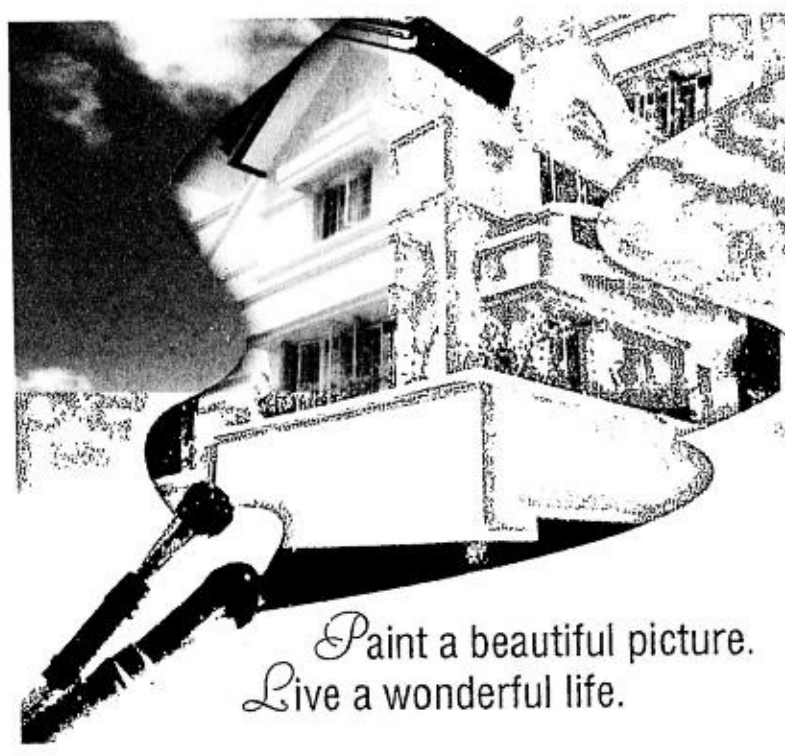
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said a day earlier that the United Nations should consider a Chapter 7 resolution against Iran when it reconvenes, probably at the end of this month, to discuss Iran.

Chapter 7 makes a resolution mandatory under international law for all UN members. It can lead to sanctions and eventually the use of force if it specifically calls for them or threatens "all necessary measures." Russia and China, key players on the Iran issue with veto rights in the Security Council, strongly oppose sanctions or the use of military force against Tehran. All other council members, including close ally Britain, oppose military action.

Earlier on Friday, Rice spoke to Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, over his trip to Iran where he met officials to discuss the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

"He reaffirmed that he sent a strong, clear message to the Iranian leadership that it needs to comply with the just demands of the IAEA board of governors," said McCormack. "I did not get the impression he heard anything new from the Iranians." Iran's president said on Friday the existence of Israel was a threat to the Islamic world, a statement that McCormack called "reprehensible" and made strong action against Iran even more necessary.

"This is the kind of rhetoric that has only added to the fears and concerns of the international community as it relates to Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon," said McCormack. *Reuters*

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION AND CONCRETE PAVING OF ZAMBOECOZONE 2nd INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD COMPLEX (SEAFRONT - PHASE II)

1 The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) through **SARO No. 0-05-07289** dated December 22, 2005 intends to apply the sum of **THIRTY-FOUR MILLION EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-SIX PESOS & 38/100 ONLY (P34,082,646.38)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction and Concrete Paving of ZAMBOECOZONE 2nd Industrial Park Road Network (Seafront-Phase II)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

2 The ZCSEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the for **"Construction and Concrete Paving of ZAMBOECOZONE 2nd Industrial Park Road Network (Seafront-Phase II)"** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P 200.00) on April 19-28, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **May 2, 2006 at 10:00 AM** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification

4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** on or before **May 2, 2006, 10:00 AM**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative effective **May 2, 2006** until a day before bid opening, during office hours

6. The ZCSEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **May 11, 2006 at 10:00 AM** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**

7 Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **May 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM**

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

| Form of Security | Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid |
|---|---|
| Cash, Certified Check, Cashiers' Check, or Manager's Check | One Percent (1%) |
| GSIS Surety Bond | Two and a half Percent (2 ½ %) |

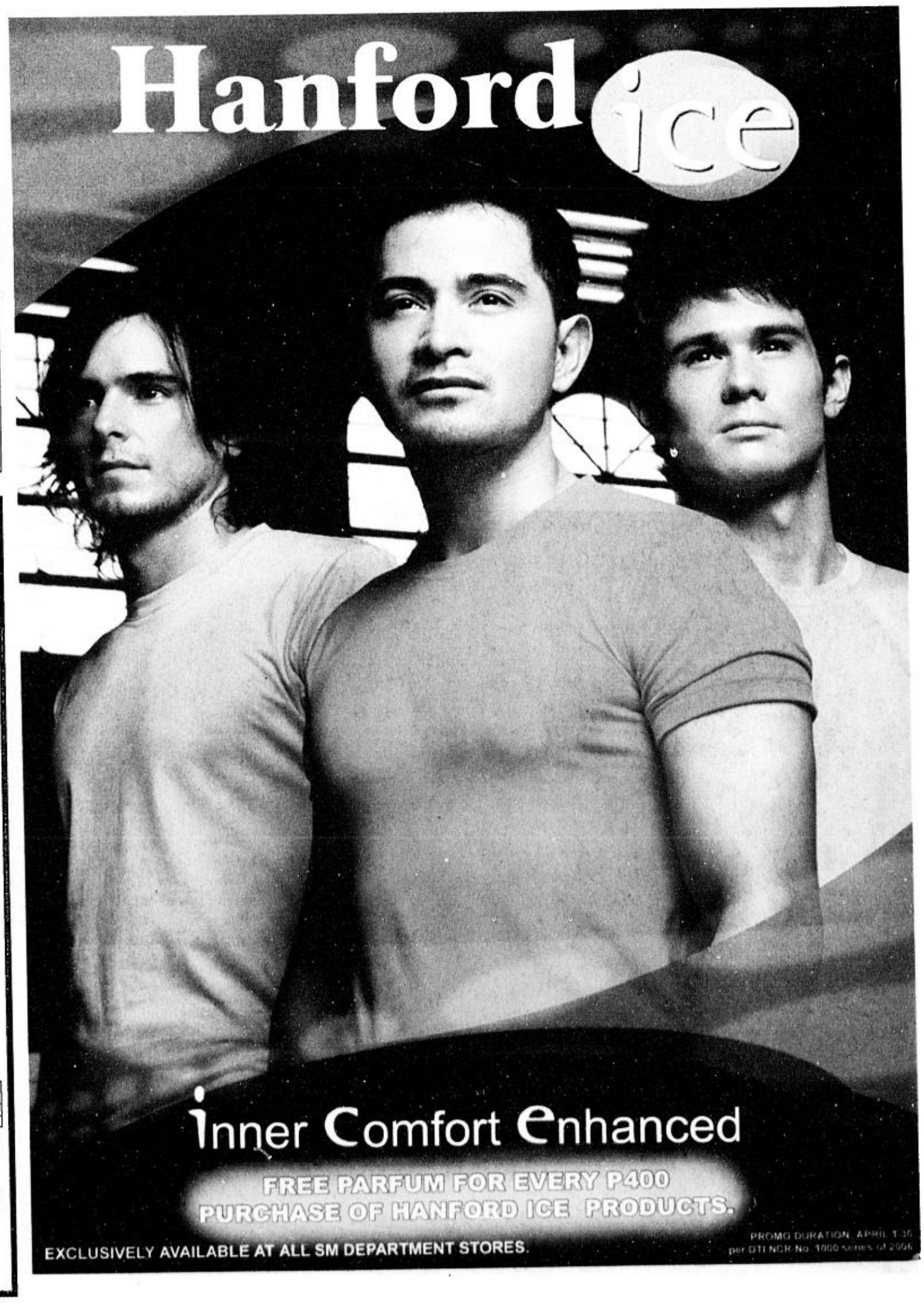
Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **May 23, 2006** at **10:00 AM** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **May 23, 2006** at **10:00 AM**

8 Completion of the Works is required by 240 calendar days

9 The ZCSEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI – April 8 & 16, 2006)



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# US bans dealings with Hamas-led gov't

**WASHINGTON—THE US GOVERNMENT has turned the screw on Hamas, banning Americans from dealing with the Palestinian Authority now that the PA is led by a banned "terrorist entity."**

A Treasury notification obtained Friday was the latest US strike on the radical Islamist movement, which came to power after January elections but now faces a cash crunch as Western donors stop direct aid.

But Hamas was defiant as its ministers fanned out on a fund-raising tour of Arab and Muslim countries.

The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (Ofac) noted that Hamas was banned as a "terrorist entity" under US law, and that the group now controls assets of the PA.

"Accordingly... US persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with the Palestinian Authority unless authorized, and may not transfer, pay, withdraw, export or otherwise deal in any assets in which the Palestinian Authority has an interest unless authorized," it said.

Last month, the United States suspended all contact with the Hamas-led Palestinian government but said its diplomats could remain in touch with PA President Mahmud Abbas.

Ofac said it would allow US citizens to continue financial dealing with entities under the control of Abbas, whose staunch support for the peace process with Israel is rejected by Hamas.

The militant group refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist and has rejected Western demands to renounce violence. As a result, the United States and European Union have stopped all but humanitarian aid to the PA.

Russia, however, said Friday it was granting "urgent financial aid" to the PA after telephone talks between Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Abbas.

Ofac said it was also permitting transactions with bodies controlled by the Palestinian judiciary, the Palestinian Elections Commission and the Palestinian Monetary Agency, and with non-Hamas members of the Palestinian legislature. *AFP*

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## Palestinian police want salaries paid

KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP—MASKED Palestinian police sealed off a main road in the central Gaza town of Khan Younis on Saturday and stormed a government building in anger over not receiving their salaries from the Hamas-led government.

The gunmen surrounded the building, where town councilors have their offices, taking positions on the roof and on balconies and firing in the air. The Palestinian Chamber of Commerce also has offices there.

The protest was the first sign of serious discontent with the new government since it took office two weeks ago, and it reflected a growing sense of desperation in the streets of Gaza as the already impoverished Palestinians begin feel the economic repercussions of Hamas' rise.

Western nations have cut off aid to the cash-starved Palestinian Authority, demanding Hamas renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist. Israel also halted the monthly transfer of about US$55 million in taxes it collects on behalf of the Palestinians.

Israeli officials say they hope the financial pressure forces Hamas—which is listed as a terror group by the US and European Union—to moderate or stirs enough popular discontent to remove the government.

The Palestinian Authority is the largest employer in the West Bank and Gaza, sustaining about one-third of the population.

With salaries for the government's 140,000 employees two weeks overdue, about 50 masked policemen protested Saturday by shutting Khan Younis' main road, which links the central Gaza town with the rest of the Gaza Strip. *AP*

**JOHN Chapman, Merchandising Manager for Wegman's, removes the remaining Bausch & Lomb ReNu MoistureLoc products from the shelves in Amherst, N.Y. on April 14.** AP

## Bausch faces lawsuit over eye infections

LOS ANGELES—A WIDELY USED BAUSCH & Lomb contact lens solution was pulled from major US retailers' shelves on Thursday at the urging of the company, as a lawsuit was filed charging that it failed to disclose the product's link to serious eye infections among users in Asia.

A Bausch & Lomb spokesperson said she had not seen the proposed class-action lawsuit and could not comment.

Sears Holdings Corp. said it pulled ReNu with MoistureLoc from its K-Mart and Sears stores, joining Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Walgreen Co. and other retailers in clearing the lens solution from their shelves.

Bausch & Lomb asked stores to temporarily remove the solution three days after it stopped shipments. It said it would run newspaper ads warning consumers not to use the solution.

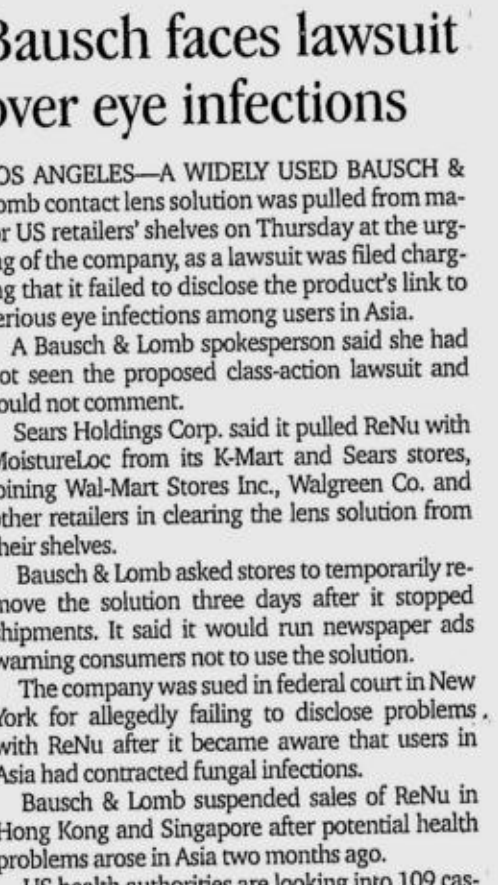
The company was sued in federal court in New York for allegedly failing to disclose problems with ReNu after it became aware that users in Asia had contracted fungal infections.

Bausch & Lomb suspended sales of ReNu in Hong Kong and Singapore after potential health problems arose in Asia two months ago.

US health authorities are looking into 109 cases of Fusarium keratitis, a rare fungal infection that can cause permanent vision loss if untreated.

People in 26 of those cases said they used ReNu products or generic versions made by Bausch & Lomb. Most of the patients reported using ReNu with MoistureLoc manufactured at the company's US factory, it said. *Reuters*

**ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD**



Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ Defense key to Sparks' resurgence /A34

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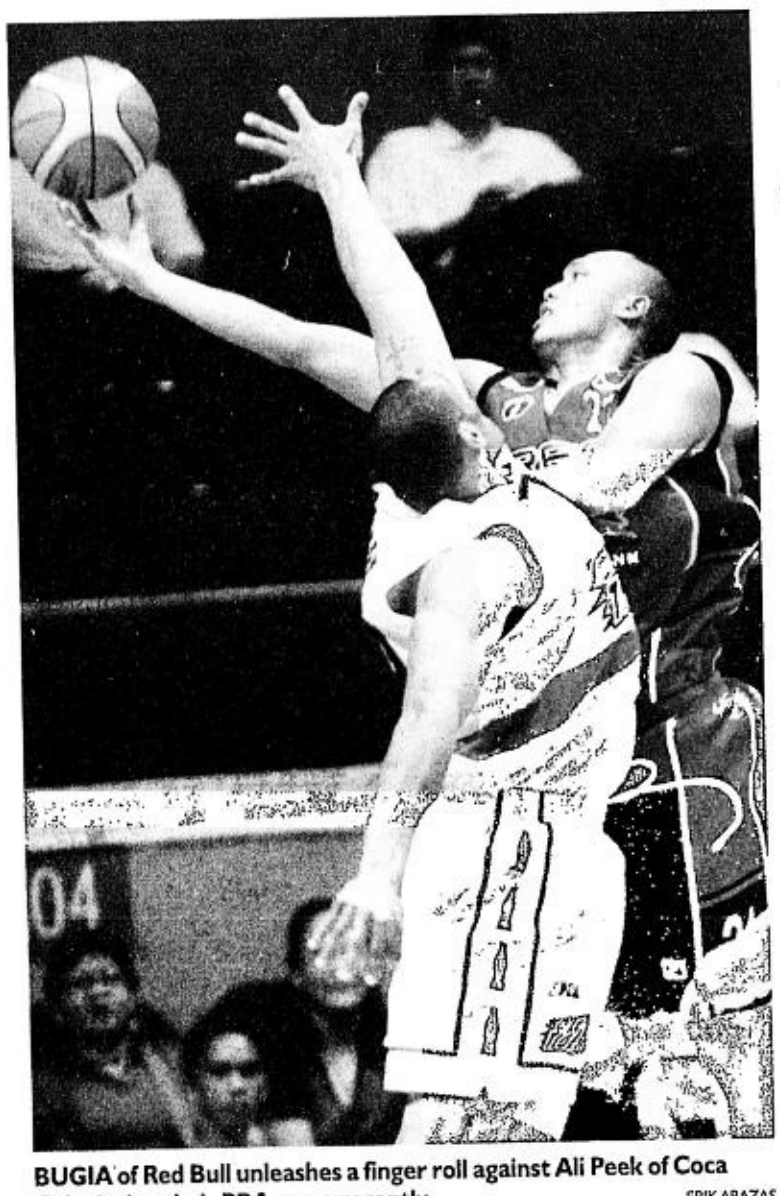
■ Star-studded cast vying in Asian 9-ball ladies tilt /A35

■ GM Antonio downs Salimbagat, keeps Bangkok Open solo lead/A36

■ Pagulayan stays on top in Calgary /A37

■ Heat secure East's No. 2 playoff seed /A39

# 4 PBA teams start climb out of hole



BUGIA of Red Bull unleashes a finger roll against Ali Peek of Coca Cola during their PBA game recently. ERIK ARAZAS

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| San Miguel Beer | 7 | 2 |
| Coca-Cola | 6 | 2 |
| Purefoods | 5 | 3 |
| Bgy. Ginebra | 4 | 4 |
| Talk 'N Text | 3 | 4 |
| Red Bull | 3 | 5 |
| Air21 Express | 3 | 5 |
| Alaska | 3 | 5 |
| Sta. Lucia Realty | 2 | 6 |

**GAMES TODAY**

*(Araneta Coliseum)*

4:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska

6:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Air21

## Bulls collide with Aces; TNT Pals battle Express

**TEAMS IN THE BOTTOM HALF OF THE standings take to the floor today seeking to rejuvenate their respective campaigns in the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup.**

Red Bull and Alaska, which haven't won for quite a while, slug it out at 4:30 p.m. in the first of two Easter Sunday games at the Araneta Coliseum with both sides desperately needing to get back in the thick of the fight.

GUIAO: Review up

The Fiesta Conference champion Bulls have dropped their last three games and the Aces have been winless for close to a month now.

"We have to review if there's a need to tinker with our present lineup," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "If there is, we need to get the right combinations quick to find the answer to this slide."

Red Bull's nucleus, led by Fiesta Conference MVP Enrico Villanueva, has been churning out sub-par performances, and the killer instinct which has been the Bulls' trademark in the past has suddenly disappeared.

Talk 'N Text and Air21 clash in the 6:30 p.m. match with the Phone Pals looking to win back-to-back games for the first time, while the Express try to regain some measure of self-respect after being blown off the court by Purefoods a week ago for their fifth straight loss.

As things stand, the teams playing today trail idle pace-setting San Miguel by at least four games.

The Beermen are now at 7-2 after winning their last five games, helped greatly by Danny Seigle, who has re-discovered his offensive touch and is the tournament's leading scorer.

Guiao also hopes to get the streaky Lordy Tugade, Topex Robinson, Cyrus Baguio, rookie Larry Fonacier and Mick Pennisi to contribute on both ends, the way they did when they backstopped James Penny in the Fiesta Conference.

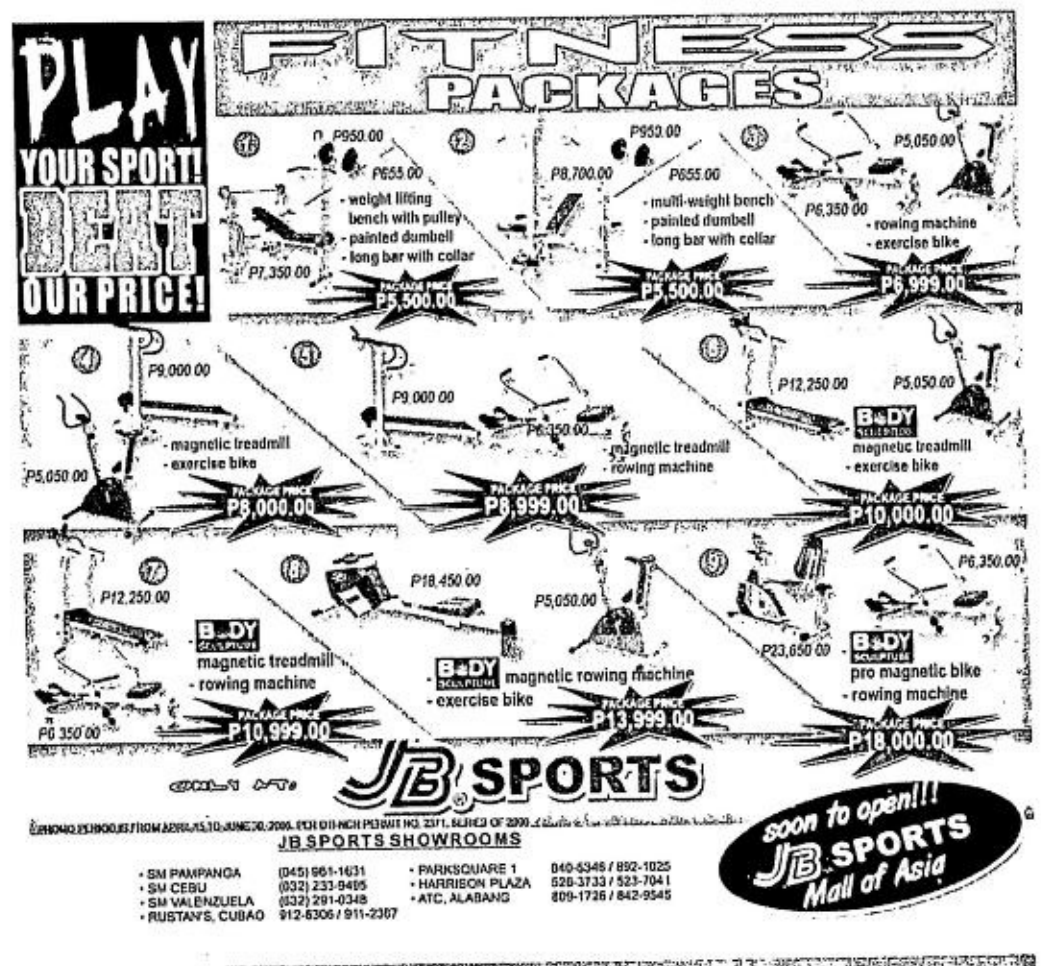
After an impressive opening-day victory over San Miguel that installed the Aces as one of the teams to beat, Alaska has nosedived steadily.

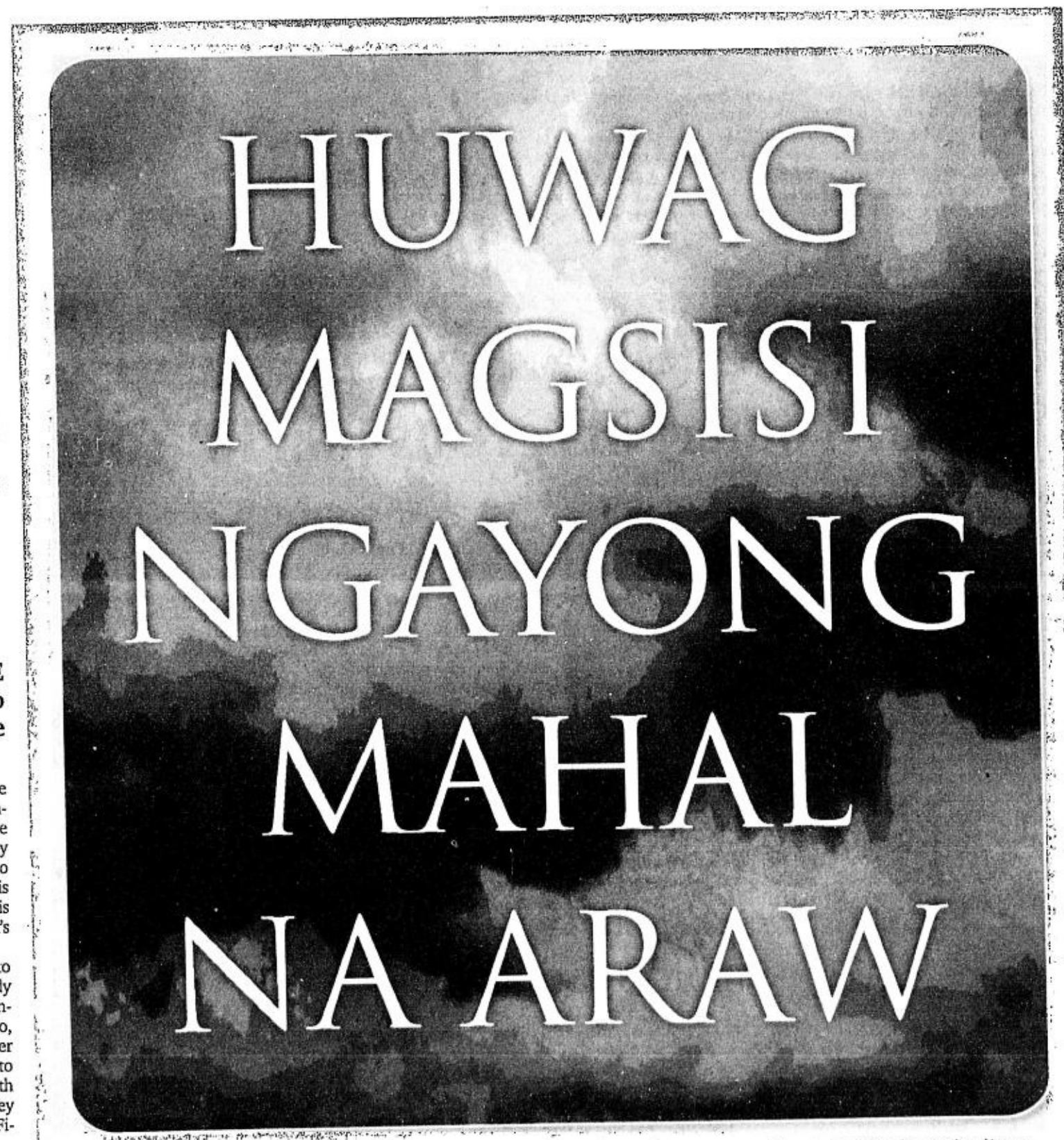
Nic Belasco, who tied a career-high with 30 points in that victory over the Beermen, has suddenly lost his touch and has taken the Aces down with him.

The trade that sent Belasco to the Aces in exchange for point guard Brandon Cablay at the start of the tournament is supposed to benefit Alaska in the short term.

Two of Alaska's three wins have come because Belasco contributed huge numbers.

The only consistent performer for Tim Cone has been Mike Cortez, the 6-foot do-it-all playmaker who has been very impressive in clutch situations. *June Navarro*

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MIÑOZA: Wind-blown 76

# Miñoza, Que literally blown away in China

BEIJING—BRITON DAVID LYNN will take a one-stroke lead into the final day of the China Open after high winds wreaked havoc during the third round on Saturday.

Benign conditions early in the day were replaced by 40 kph gusts in the afternoon with one twister blowing down a television tower and lifting at least one player's bag off the ground.

Overnight leader Lynn battled through a difficult round to record a par 72 and remain on 9-under-par 207, a shot in front of Thailand's Prayad Marksaeng and Jeev Milkha Singh of India.

"Every hole out there was tough," said the 32-year-old Englishman. "You could have shot anything. You just had to hang in there ... and I'm pleased with level par to be honest." Prayad shared the lead with Lynn for much of the afternoon until he found the water on a particularly mean 18th. The Thai carded a double bogey to drop to eight-under in a tie with Singh after a 72.

Filipinos Frankie Miñoza and Angelo Que were not spared by the howling winds. Miñoza, after earlier rounds of 71-72, shot a 76 for 219 while Que had a 79 after carding 71-73 for 223.

Singh witnessed the collapse of the tower from the next green but kept his composure to putt out for par before completing his round in a 5-under 67.

"It was like a twister or mini-tornado which knocked this tower down," the 34-year-old said.

One of those players was Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, who described how he lay on the ground to let the swirling gust pass and how his playing partner's bag was lifted off the ground.

"It was a really bad moment," Fernandez said.

But the experience seems to have brought the Spaniard's round to life and he downed the putt before going on to shoot a 68 for a share of fourth place with defending champion Paul Casey on seven-under.

Casey, defending his title just five months after winning it in Shenzhen, shot a 2-under-par 70 to put himself into contention. *Reuters*

# Defense key to Sparks' resurgence

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TOYOTA OTIS SPARKS HAS BEEN credited to their improved defense.**

After finishing dead last for two straight conferences and winning only three games in the Heroes Cup, Toyota Otis opened up strong and has a share of the lead when PBL Unity Cup action resumes Tuesday with an interesting double-header.

"We worked so hard on our defensive rotation and we're still hoping we can improve on it," said Sparks coach Louie Alas, whose wards clash with the struggling Magnolia Spinners in the 2 p.m. game Tuesday at the San Andres gym.

Fil-Am center Joe Devance has been leading Toyota Otis' charge by averaging 12.8 points and 9.8 rebounds. Aaron Aban, Jonathan Aldave and Boyet Bautista—the core of last year's NCAA champion Letran Knights—have also been delivering consistent numbers.

But the Sparks, who share the top with the Montaña Jewels at 4-1, have also drawn big games from new recruits Patrick Cabahug and JV Casio.

"We're winning because of the effort we give each game," Alas said. "We know that our opponents are just starting to heat up.

"But I have full trust and confidence in my boys. They're really determined this time."

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Toyota Otis | 4 | 1 |
| Montaña | 4 | 1 |
| Rain or Shine | 4 | 2 |
| Granny Goose | 3 | 3 |
| Magnolia | 2 | 3 |
| Hapee-PCU | 2 | 3 |
| Harbour | 2 | 4 |
| TeleTech | 1 | 5 |

**GAMES TUESDAY**
**(*San Andres Gym*)**
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Magnolia
4 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Montaña

And the Sparks certainly displayed resiliency when they shocked the Jewels with a come-from-behind 73-65 win last Saturday.

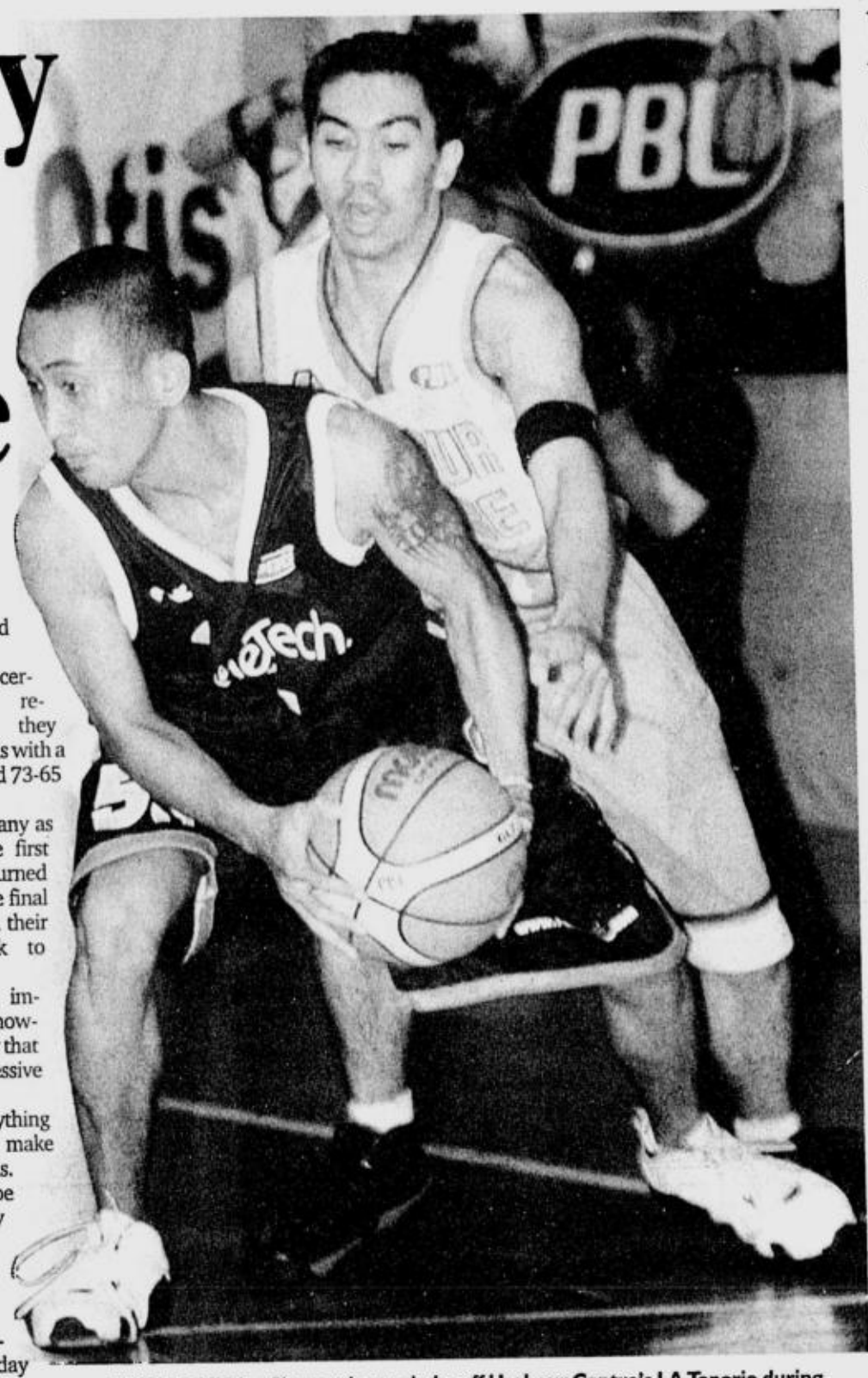
Down by as many as 20 points in the first half, the Sparks turned to Cabahug in the final quarter to extend their victorious streak to three.

Although impressed with his team's strong showing, Alas said it's too early to say that the Sparks have made an impressive turnaround this conference.

"We have not achieved anything yet; three straight wins won't make you a champion team," said Alas.

"There are a lot of things to be done and we have to be ready physically and emotionally."

The high-flying Jewels, meanwhile, try to keep their share of the lead when they tackle the Hapee-PCU Teethmasters in the other Tuesday game slated at 4 p.m. *Jasmine W. Payo*



TELETECH'S Jay Sierra tries to shake off Harbour Centre's LA Tenorio during their game recently. The Portmasters prevailed, 77-63. ERIK ARAZAS

# Liberica golf anticipates banner field

LIPA CITY—THE LIBERICA INVITATIONAL, Club Malarayat's annual member-guest tournament, tees off April 27 with another banner field expected to compete.

The event is the first of two major tournaments the sprawling 27-hole complex here hosts every year counting the Mid-Amateur championship, and Malarayat chair Antonio Turalba Sr. is making sure that participants will have a good time.

Tournament format calls for half of the field to play 18 holes on the 27th, the second half for their 18 on the 28th before the double shotgun championship day on the 29th.

All three nines—Mounts Malipunyo, Lobo and Makulot—will be used for the event and every player will get the chance to play each nine during the tournament, which will use the Stableford method of scoring.

The course remains to be in tip-top shape, very much in the same conditions as the Philippine Open, won by Aussie Adam Les Viconte, which the Malarayat successfully hosted last year.

For a fee of P6,000, each participant will be entitled to practice rounds from April 17-21, discounts at Malarayat's The Inns, The Suites and The Hotel, as well as numerous giveaways.

**BY TOP CHOICE**

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Shining Speed (4), Stone face (1) Rich and Famous (5), Bahrain (7)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Dixie The Younger (1), Rebecca's Magic (7), Ilocos Pride (3), Better Strike (6)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Queen of Diamonds (4), Virginia (2), Alexis magic (6), Empire Cat (8)
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri—Sutter's Wealth (9), Apex (13), Double Your Bet (11), American Inggo (8), Saint Bernard (10), Yoshiwara (4)
Race 5—Qrt/Tri)—Lupardo (6), Vickyal (3), Desert Fly (2), I Love This Game (4)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri—Love and Money (7), Noble Win (2), Naman Naman/Pasirit (4), Long Road/Ocean Dignity (1)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Special Edition (7), King's Dominion (2), Batong Silyar (4), Tigres In Action (9), Don Exequiel/Santiago (1)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Smiling Jaeda/Dynamic Jason (7), King ALjhun (9), She Jinsky/Red Storm (8), Ravishing Rafty (3), Britney's Magic (5)
Race 9—(Tri)—Ruah (1), Southern CHarm (3), Great Honor (2)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Formidable Jaeda/Beautiful Jaeda (5), St. Jek Jek (2), Ingay Ingay (3), Reign Of Roses (9), Magical Surf (7), Gold Collar (11)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Monalisa (3), Honour N Fame (4), Nice Legs/Coromell (6), Crystal City (1)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Cool Town/D'Venetian (1), Overture (2), Smile Of The Wind (8), Luck Of The Irish (6), Please Don't Stop (5)
Race 13—(Super/Qrt/Tri)—Perky Perp (10), Reporter (2), Golden Harry (3), Gun Powder (7), Divine Diva (4), Aim And Fire (13)

# English, 5 other NBA greats join RP Tour

ALEX ENGLISH CAPPED A STOried National Basketball Association career as one of its most lethal scorers of all time.

The 6-foot-7 guard was all grace, all composure in his 15 years in the NBA, where he netted a total of 25,613 points, 11th in the all-time scoring list, and a place in the Hall of Fame.

He takes that act to the Philippines later this month when he joins other former NBA greats colliding with the San Miguel All Stars and the Pilipinas Basketball squad in The Bad Boy Tour in Cebu and at the Araneta Coliseum.

Now an assistant coach with the Toronto Raptors, English has stayed in competitive shape and is looking forward to playing in the Philippines for the first time and showing the Filipinos what he is all about.

ENGLISH: Storied NBA career

"I'm looking forward to experiencing your people, your country and your culture," English said. "I'm sure we will have fun playing."

An eight-time All-Star and the all-time scoring leader in Denver Nuggets history, English is one of six former NBA greats in the visiting squad put together by the organizing West End Sports of Mario Whitmire.

"I'm sure the Philippine teams have been playing for quite a while now," English added. "But I can promise everyone that we will play hard, competitive basketball.

"We won't be coming over there for a vacation, but to play hard and win."

The game in Cebu versus the SMB All Stars led by Samboy Lim and Allan Caidic is scheduled on April 27 at the Mandaue Sports Center, while the Big Dome joust against the RP Team will be on May 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Dennis "The Worm" Rodman, Calvin Murphy, Otis Birdsong, Daryll Dawkins, Sidney Moncrief and English banner the team, which will be reinforced by high-flying mainstays coming from the Developmental League of the NBA.

"This is going to be very exciting," Whitmire said. "These former greats have not lost a beat in their games and the young guys we are bringing in are all very good."

## SPORTSWATCH

### Beach volley on Golf Power Plus

GOLF POWER PLUS FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON THE THIRD AND FINAL set of the championship match between Adamson University Team 1 and College of St. Benilde Team 1 for the ISt Samsung Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge. The game was played at the beach volleyball court of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. Golf Power Plus is aired nationwide at 3 p.m. every Sunday on RPN-9 and is aired worldwide on ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. The show is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, PCSO, Hope and Mapecon. Fistorama follows at 3:30 p.m., also on RPN-9 and is aired twice weekly worldwide through The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV.

### One-day 5-cocker at Roligon Tuesday

MORE THAN 60 FIGHTS HAVE BEEN LINED UP ON TUESDAY BY THE National Cockers Association in a one-day 5-cock derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Hosts Rudy Albano and P. Berin, stalwarts of the NCA, the most prestigious association of gamefowl officials in the country, said that the event will be a slam-bang affair. Among the big time cockfighters entered are former Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Ito Ynares, the Firefly Group, Iggy Arroyo, Ronnie Runo, Butch Pichay, Patrick Antonio, Manny and Arman Santos, Edwin Santos, Mike Atayde, Ric de Guzman and Rene Medina from California, USA; E. Santos, Tony Tan, Pepito Ngo, P. Menez, Ruel Ricafort, Jimmy Ang, William Go, E. Canlas, and Boy de Roca.

### GCAP sixth leg slated at SJ Coliseum

THE SIXTH LEG OF THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines(GCAP) 5-Cock Derby series blasts off at the San Juan Coliseum on Wednesday, April 19, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Based on the latest tally, partners Rep. Butch Pichay and Rey Briones (Spartan's Pichay, 19 points) currently lead the GCAP Cocker of the Year race followed closely by Jun Topacio (JT Emerald Complexor 3000), with 18 points. With identical 15.5 markers are Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Complexor 3000), Louie Cua (LCC Leonard) and Gerry Ramos (Against All Odds). The team of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and Antonio (Super Pacman) has 15 points.

### Countdown on for rich Makati cockfest

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR MAKATI COLISEUM'S SUMMER SALPUKAN 6-Cock Derby, an elite cockfest that offers a guaranteed prize of P4.4 million but with an entry fee of only P11,000. There are only 10 more days to go before the battle royale of well-known cockers unfolds on April 26, 29, May 2, 4, 6, 11 and 13. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. are inviting all cockers and breeders looking for the ultimate prize. Only last December, Rey Briones hit the jackpot after emerging as double champion in the Christmas Salpukan 6-Cock Derby and went home with P1.8 million, aside from a brand new Toyota Innova. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

### Heritage Cup grand finals set April 25

THE GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE HERITAGE CUP 5-BULLSTAG DERby gets under way at the Araneta Coliseum on April 25 with at least 100 fights on tap. The event is sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador. "This derby will be exciting from start to finish," said Rene "Boy" Diaz, official of the organizing Luzon-Based Gamecock Breeders Association. The champion will get P400,000 while the runner-up wins P100,000. Among the top contenders are Baby Canillas (10 points); Danny Ty and William Chia (9.5); Raffy Campos, Edwin Aranez and Boy Gamilla, Anthony Lim, Raul Adan, Joseph Chua and Romero Yu and Nelson Uy, all with 9 points.

# A birthday package

*The 17th (tomorrow) marks his 68th, so confesses boxing man Hermie Rivera. Our friend has one simple request. May we kindly print this piece as a birthday gift? Much obliged, boss. Take it away.—Ed*

**By Hermie Rivera**

GIVEN THE USUAL EXPLOITS OF THE COMbatants, the July 2 clash at the Araneta Coliseum between Manny Pacquiao and Oscar Larios could turn out to be one hell of a fight.

After a dearth of quality boxing events, the Big Dome roars back to life by staging Pacquiao's first outing since destroying Erik Morales. This time it is against Larios, a former world champ who's coming here to "win and not to lose," according to his chief advisor Eric Gomez.

It took the coliseum's top honcho, Nene Araneta, awhile to rediscover the lure of big-time boxing.

In turn, Nene's move brought back the game to a venue which had played a vital part in the country's storied boxing history.

A huge turnout is expected then when Manny enters the Big Dome ring where once the likes of Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes, Flash Elorde, Luisito Espinosa and countless other assets of the Sweet Science saw action.

For a while, the staging of this blockbuster hung in the balance, threatened by political mischief and the spectre of a coup at the height of negotiations among the principals.

Luckily, it wound up well with ABS-CBN picking up the pieces after the US-based server HBO backed out.

Even with the sterling credentials of Manny, who lays claim to the best record going into this super featherweight tussle, the buzz going the rounds is whether the gutsy Mex can withstand

**COMMENTARY**

the bombardment the GenSan marvel will unleash come fight night.

But boxing followers with an insatiable appetite for non-stop action will not hesitate to pull out their wallets for the much awaited event.

Just who is this Larios anyway?

He's a former World Boxing Council super bantamweight champion from Mexico managed by the golden boy,Oscar De La Hoya, himself.

No less than De La Hoya's right hand man, Eric Gomez, is adamant that Pacman's decision to face their ward wasn't a smart move at all.

Fact is, HBO, the pay-per-view giant, was most insistent in having Larios tangle with Pacquiao to guarantee a competitive match-up.

In addition to giving it all against the hardest-hitting super featherweight on the planet, the resolute Mexican is hoping to perform at least as well as he had done in his successful title defenses when he reigned supreme in his division.

Meanwhile, our man, the Gen. Santos City punching machine, is coming off from the most exciting victory of his career: when he beat the once redoubtable El Terrible Erik Morales to submission in 10 rounds at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas last January.

What we will see when Pacquiao and Larios collide would be their own not-so-contrasting styles—full of carefully contrived and energized hits.

Both will be right in their alley—in front of each other—with no backward movement until the big blows start hitting their targets.

If the slugfest in terms of ferocious leather exchanges turns out anything like Pacquiao-/Morales II, expect one hell of a fight night to remember.

Adios Señor Larios.

Can our fight fans get that lucky?

TOP FILIPINO HOPE: SEA Games champ Rubilen Amit.

# Star-studded cast vying in Asian 9-ball ladies tilt

**THE REIGNING WORLD CHAMPION FROM SOUTH KOREA AND A HOST of veteran internationalists have swelled the entry list for the Enerva International Asian 9-ball Tour Ladies Championship slated April 26-28 at Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong City.**

Among the early birds are seeded players led by 2005-06 world women's champion Kim Ga-young, Jennifer Chen and Liu Shin-men Liu of Chinese-Taipei, Akimi Kajitani of Japan, Desak Kasih Aryati and Nova Floura Rachmawati of Indonesia, Pan Xiaoting and Zhou Mengmeng of China, Chai Zeet Huey and Hoe Shu Wah of Singapore and the Philippines' Rubilen "Bingkay" Amit and Mary Ann Basas.

"I hope to improve on my Top 24 finish in the recent World Pool Championship in Taiwan and my Top 8 placing in Japan Open," said the 24-year-old Amit, a Cebuana who swept the two individual gold medals in the women's division of last year's Southeast Asian Games.

A qualifying session on April 25 at Paeng's Skybowl in Robinson's Galleria, Mandaluyong City, will decide the 16 players, who will complete the starting field. The main event on April 26-28 at the Robinson's Galleria's fountain area will be aired live on IBC 13 and Solar Sports.

The historic event is organized by RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and supported by Nature's Best Products Inc. and Solar Sports Entertainment and sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports and the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) headed by Ernesto Fajardo.

"An event of this magnitude will surely entice the grassroots of Philippine women's billiards and show them that they have a chance to improve their lives through the sport," said Puyat, benefactor of Filipino billiards icons Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan.

The tournament, which will serve as advance preview of how women's billiards will be contested in the Doha Asian Games in Qatar in December, offers a top prize of $10,000.

The runner-up will get $5,000, the semifinalists $2,500 each, the fifth and sixth placers $1,000 each.

For inquiries, call 896-9940.

*Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

## No one's unforgiven

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

AS GOD IS ALIVE again in the Christian faith, so is our sporting life.

Resurrection it is today and Christendom celebrates with gusto the return to life of Jesus Christ, who, despite being "dead" for a day or two, is known as the Son of Man's Living God anyway.

You want it in sporting lingo?

You got it: Living Legend.

Thus today, there is no better way to show delight for His return than to go out there and sniff the air—the *barrio* breeze if you're in the country—smell the flowers and next express your gratitude for His blessings.

You rise from the pits and there's no victory sweeter than that. How many teams, boxers, have done that?

To extricate one's self from the jaws of defeat is the sweetest of victories. Thus, in a manner of speaking, sports is like Jesus Christ. You win by climbing back from the depths and that's essaying God's rise from the grave. Michael Jordan had his own return and he was amply rewarded—three more NBA rings in 1996, 1997 and 1998 to make it six after 1991, 1992 and 1993.

Movement is life and rest is death. If you stay mobile when there's need to, you breathe and live. If you elect to surrender amid adversity, you consign yourself to the mortician.

The last few days, particularly Thursday, Friday and Saturday, must have been, should be, basically rest—at least to most of the Catholic flock. No golf. No basketball. No nothing. That is sacrifice, not death. A necessary sacrifice decreed, albeit indirectly, by the City within the City that is Rome.

In my kid days, we were not allowed to speak on Good Friday; neither are we allowed to step out of the house. That is neither death of freedom of speech nor curtailment of movement. Or maybe Raul Gonzalez has other things in mind? Ah, never mind.

Not speaking, getting locked up inside the house on Good Friday, isn't much of a sacrifice compared to the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, right?

Think about being nailed to the cross and breathing your last there. That, fellers and dolls, is absolutely called sacrifice. Supreme sacrifice.

OK, maybe some went to the beach on Thursday, Friday and Saturday?

Fine.

Maybe some barbecued *hito*, *dalag*, *bangus*, *pigik* or *buntyek* on Good Friday for *pulutan*?

Fine.

No meat, please. We are Catholics. We abide by Vatican decree. Only kids 12 and below are allowed to eat meat on Good Friday, though?

Fine.

Maybe some played mah-jongg, Texas Hold 'Em poker, or *tong-its*?

Fine.

Maybe some even played the radio, the guitar, or watched HBO, if not the NBA, on TV?

Fine.

God is merciful. Forgiving. In His book, there's no such animal as the unforgiven—and that includes Joey Lina. Even Barabas, had he asked for forgiveness, would have gotten it. Always, in the eyes of the Living Legend, everybody's forgiven—including election thieves. All they need is repent.

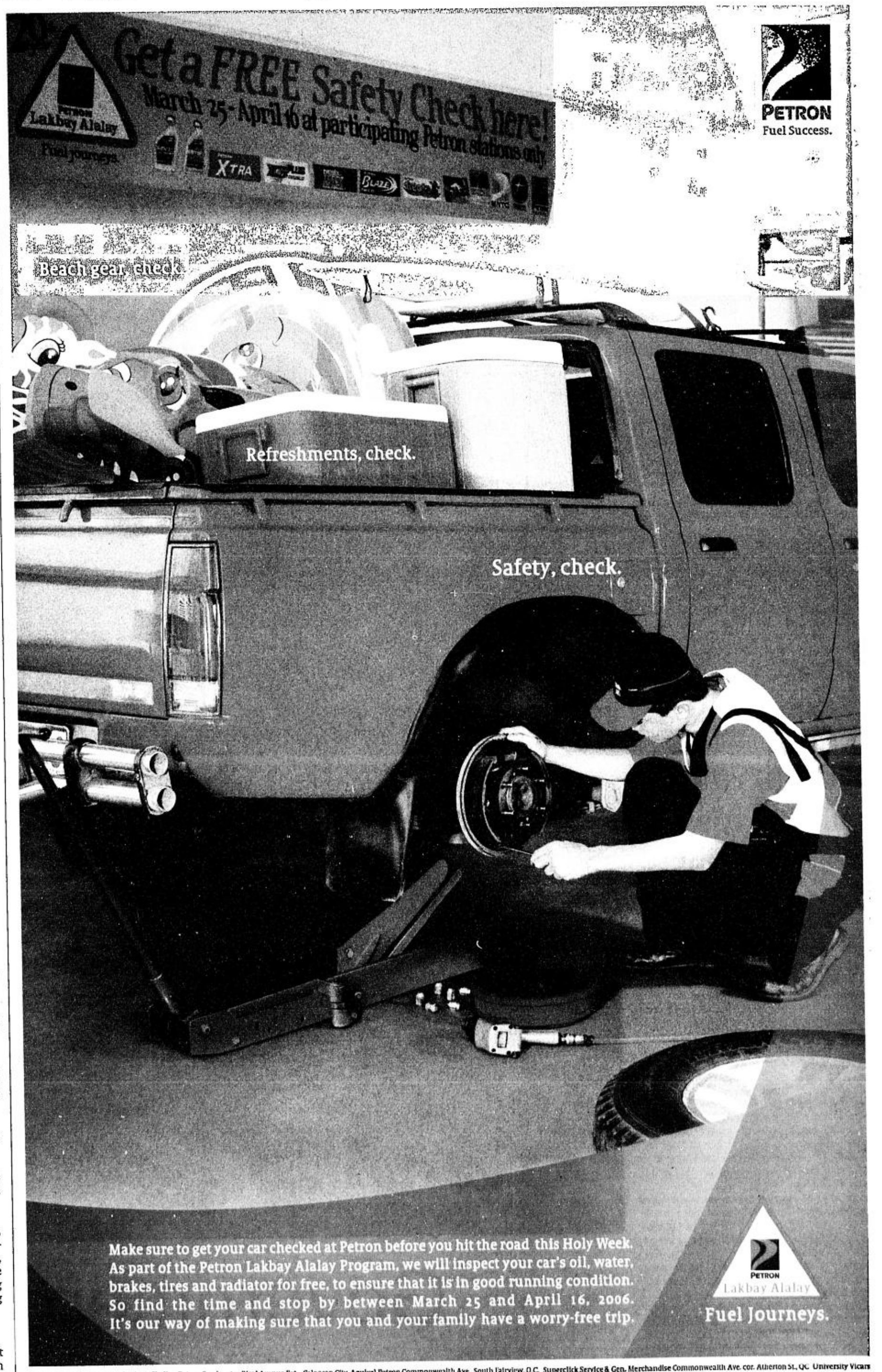
Happy Easter!

* * *

**FASTBREAK.** Chupsie Medina rues that her Mizuno golf set has been stolen from the trunk of her car that she had parked at Farmer's Cubao, Quezon City. If returned, she promised not to ask questions and that she'd consider the case closed.

* * *

*Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net*

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# GM Antonio downs Salimbagat, keeps Bangkok Open solo lead

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER ROgelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. outlasted compatriot Fide Master Rico Salimbagat in a marathon 75 moves of a Ruy Lopez Opening Saturday to remain on top after seven rounds of the annual Bangkok Chess Club Open Saturday at the Century Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

Antonio, the tournament's back-to-back champion from 2003, now has 6.5 points on six wins and a draw going into the last two rounds of the nine-round Swiss system event.

He also scored the full point against Terje Hoff of Norway, VS Negi of India, Shen Siyuan of China, Pieter Hopman of the Netherlands and International Master Adam Hunt of England.

**ANTONIO: Full point in front.**

Only Indian IM Chandrashekhar Gokhale escaped with a draw against the Philippines' No. 3 player in the sixth round.

Antonio is scheduled to face second-running Thai FM Banjuab Jiravorasuk in the penultimate round Sunday.

Banjuab bested compatriot FM Boonsueb Saeheng in the Saturday's round to pool 5.5 points, a full point off Antonio's torrid pace.

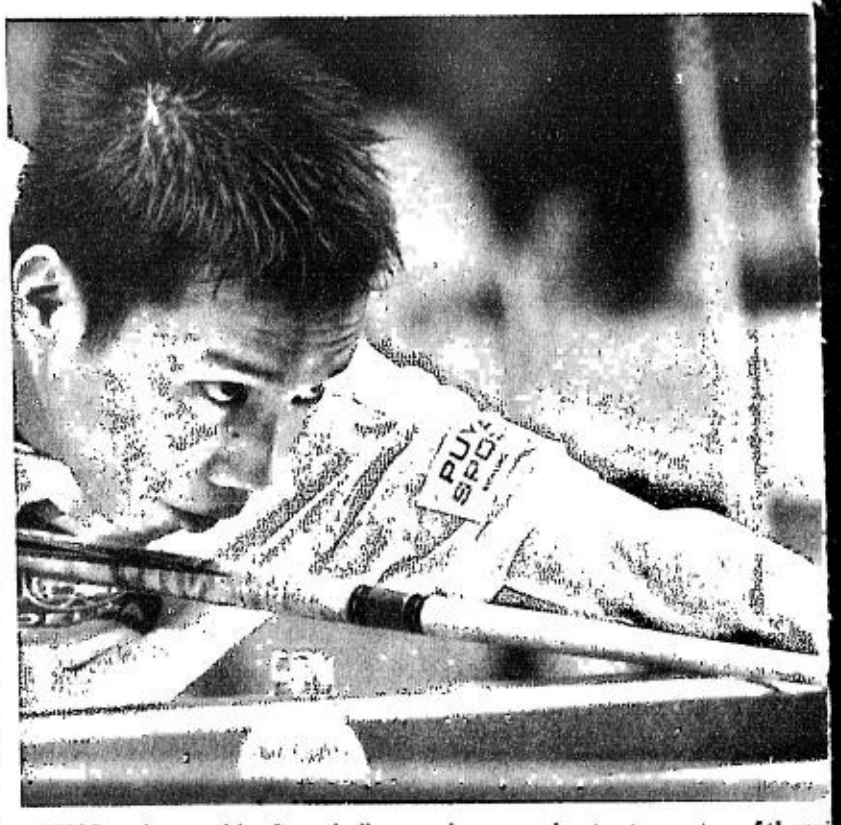
With the loss, Salimbagat of Tanauan City was stuck at 5.0 points and shared third place with IM Gokhale, FM Saeheng, Shen and Singaporean FM Hoon Cheng Lim.

Filipino GM Eugene Torre shared top honors with Australian GM Ian Rogers in last year's tournament.

Other Filipino players in the tournament (and their results in parenthesis) are Anthony Makinano of Cebu (4/6), Rodolfo Panopio Jr. of Calamba, Laguna (4/6), Dr. Alfredo Paez of Cabuyao, Laguna (3.5/6) and Henry Calacday (2/6).

In Group B play, Francis Sagyaman of Baguio City shared the lead with Englishman Stephen Crowdy with perfect 4.0 points.

Sharing third to eighth places was Elauria Paulleandru with 3.0 points. Julius Ceasar Marquez and Eric Calacday were in a bunch at 13th place with 2.0 points. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*



**ALEX Pagulayan whips four challengers in succession to stay on top of the wi**

# Mendoza impresses Australian champion

RYAN MENDOZA IS RIPE ENOUGH TO compete beyond Asia where he has already proven himself.

This was the impression Mendoza left on West Australian duathlon champion Rafael Baugh after the Filipino ace captured his second major regional crown by topping the Asian Duathlon Championship at the Clark Field Expo ground in Pampanga recently.

Mendoza, fresh off his victory in the Asian Duathlon Cup in Bangkok, struck again on local soil with a time of one hour 55 minutes and 47 seconds for the 10K run-40K bike-5K run event.

Baugh, competing as a guest entry, was second overall in 1:57:11.

"Your boy is really impressive," Baugh said, acknowledging Mendoza's tremendous edge in the cycling side of the event as a former bikathon rider. "The way he attacked in the bike leg was not typical of a duathlon race tactic but more of a cycling race tactic.

Baugh said he had heard a lot about Mendoza from Aussie triathlon coach Rob Pickard, who has helped the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap) coaching staff in designing a training program.

"Stay close to him in the bike leg, then you can leave him in the final run," Baugh said, recalling Pickard's word of warning.

Baugh did try to pull away from Mendoza along with Japanese bet Takashi Nakata as early as the first 10K run, where they left Mendoza close to a minute behind.

But it was not enough. Mendoza caught up with them going into the second loop of the 40K bike leg and, by the third loop, has already taken a sizeable lead. *Lito Cinco*

# Wushu bangers rule the roost in Fearless Fighting

WUSHU PROVED TO BE THE MOST PROLIFIC form of martial arts in the Fearless Fighting Championships as four practitioners pulled off big wins last week at the Metrowalk in Pasig City to advance to the main draw of the action-packed event in August.

World Cup and Southeast Games bronze medalist Mark Eddiva beat Andrew Benibe of Suntukaran Todo Bakbakan via a second-round stoppage to post his second victory and reach the grand championship of the tournament sponsored by Pagcor and PCSO.

The other wushu bets who notched their second wins were Joel Amurao, Joseph Pasiwat and Edward Kelly, who all prevailed via choke in the first round. Jovan Presbeterio of Maic's Gym disposed of Celso Gunda Jr. of Fight Club in the second round to join the foursome in the main draw.

Amurao stopped Noble Ampoc of Yaw Yan, Pasiwat prevailed over Reydon Romero of Team Kampilan and Kelly bundled out Larry Baluyan of New Blood Kickboxing.

Others who hurdled their rivals in the event backed by PLDT, Revicon, Tanduay Rhum, Motolite, Superb Security, Phi Resto Bar, South Sea's Grill, Elbow Room Rest. and Partas Bus Line were Eric Tulis, James Solomon, Froilan Sarenas, Bernard of wushu, Edward Folayang, Sulpiano Laurio Jr., Angelo Lazarrito, Melchor Villasin and Duke Villanueva.

Tulis of Pinnacle Boxing/Kickboxing beat Oliver Pagay and Solomon of Kickboxing defeated Ricard Lucena via stoppages, Sarenas downed Wendell of wrestling via armbar, Folayang clipped Robert Barranda via first round stoppage; Bernard booted out Chris Magallon via rear naked choke in round 1, Laurio won over John Naval via second round stoppage, Lazarrito whipped Christian Virtudazo, Villasin thumped Jonar Lagasca via armbar, and Villanueva of Sprawl MMA decisioned Neil Cartajena.

Government Warnin
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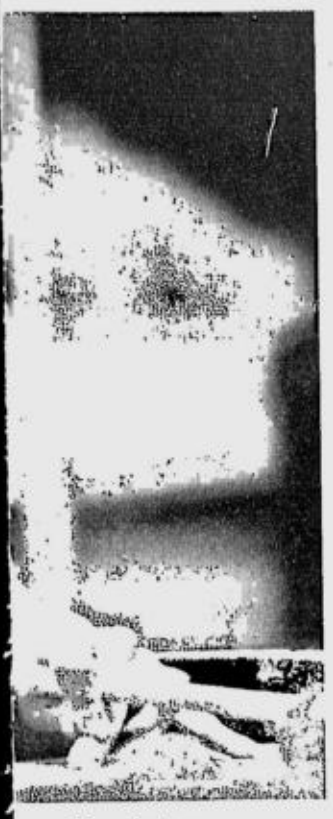


nners' bracket.

# Pagulayan stays on top in Calgary

**DEFENDING CHAMPION ALEX "The Lion" Pagulayan took out four challengers in succession to stay on top of the winner's bracket in the $50,000 SML Entertainment Open 9-Ball championship at the Olympic Oval in Calgary, Canada, over the weekend.**

The string of victories of Pagulayan, the 2004 world pool champion, made up for the exits of compatriots Dennis Orcollo and Edwin Montal who both fell to Canada's second-ranked pool master Luc Salvas.

Pagulayan, the Filipino-Canadian who was born in Cabagan, Isabela, first ousted Collyne Savage before showing the door to Mike Peters and Kevin Beavis.

He earned the right to face Jason Klatt after bundling out Erik Hjorliefson in the event that stakes a champion's purse of $15,000.

Salvas, who also drew an opening-round bye like Pagulayan, eliminated Mark Nickle and Tim Hall before battling and defeating the two Filipinos.

The Canadian's next assignment, though, is former world champion Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer of United States, who outplayed Stan Tourangeau.

Orcollo and Montal's only chance of getting back into the tournament is by sweeping their matches from the losers' bracket. Both Filipinos, however, are paired in the next match.

After the loss to Salvas, the Canada-based Montal regrouped and demolished Hjorliefson and Shan Van Boening.

Orcollo, meanwhile, crushed Robert Philips and Tourangeauin in that order. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

## *Inquirer Badminton Expo set at Rockwell*

BADMINTON ENTHUSIASTS are in for a big summer treat with the staging of the INQUIRER Badminton Expo Year 3 on April 22-23 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

The Expo is the biggest badminton sale in the country and features the latest brands of giant brands.

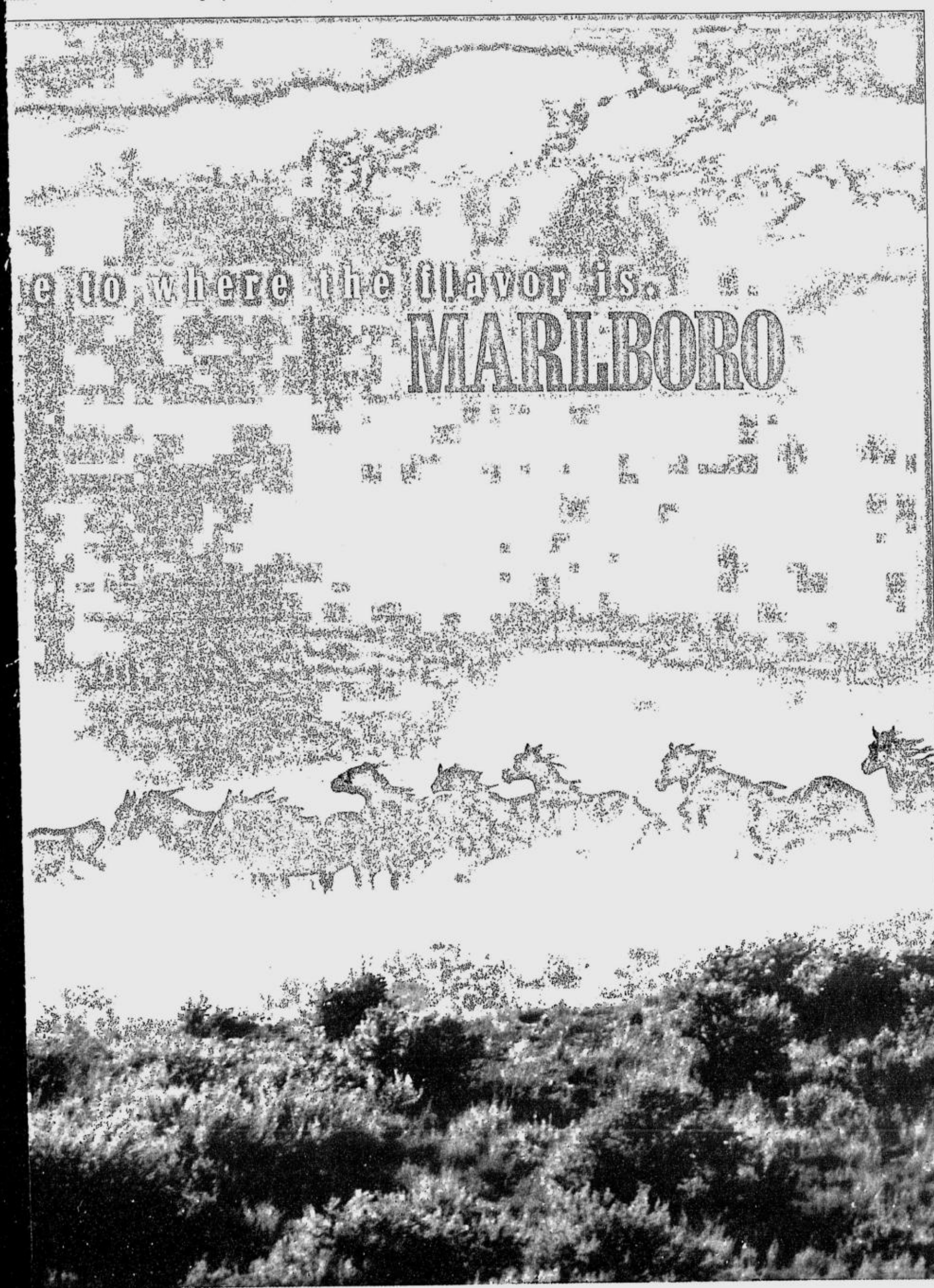
There will be special activities for the weekend. A Midnight Sale will be held on April 22 from 12 noon to 12 midnight, while more exciting promotions will be showcased the next day, Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Expo's presenters are Mizuno, Kimoni and Gosen. Major sponsors are Sportshouse, Toby's Sports, Adidas, HSBC and Rockwell Land, while Chris Sports, Victor, Prince, Wilson, BSI Medicated Spray, The Travel Club, Unilever and Centrex as minor sponsors. Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3 are the official radio stations.

Mizuno will be coming up with activities and games for visitors while Kimoni will be presenting a celebrity badminton challenge.

Visitors will be able to avail themselves of the huge discounts and promos from the exhibitors and get the chance to win items in the hourly hour.

INQUIRER Badminton is raffling off many items including an Ipod Nano for its own visitors.




## Southwoods, Alabang gain ladies Fed League semis

MANILA SOUTHWOODS AND ALABANG advanced to the semifinals of the Ladies Federation Golf League after hacking out contrasting victories recently.

Southwoods turned back defending champion Tagaytay Highlands while Alabang defeated Forest Hills in their recent home-and-away quarterfinals.

Southwoods went through a playoff against Tagaytay after both teams ended tied at 3-3 in regulation play with the pair of Tere Arevalo and Claudine Garcia winning it for the Carmona-based ladies.

Alabang first scored a 2-1 victory in their visit to Forest Hills then closed it out with a masterful 3-0 sweep in their home course the next day.

The semifinals of the tourney organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs in the Philippines will be held this coming week with Manila Southwoods and Alabang going up against the two teams that gained outright berths for topping the eliminations.

It will be Alabang battling the top-seeded Wack Wack on Thursday and Friday (April 20-21) and Southwoods going up against Riviera on Wednesday and Thursday (April 19-20).

## Latest golf products to be showcased at the Tent

NEW PRODUCTS FROM GIANT EQUIPMENT and apparel brands will be showcased in the first Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines Summer Show on April 29 and 30 at The Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

Equipment ranging from drivers to irons, putters, the hybrids and utility clubs, as well as apparel like golf shirts for summer, shoes and other gear will be on display during the weekend show.

Related businesses in the golfing industry will also be represented. There will be golf carts and trophy manufacturers, as well as sharebrokers and real estate firms.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and INQUIRER Golf are the official print partners of the GDAP Summer Golf Show.

Participating in the show are Acro Golf, Aetna Enterprise, Atendido Marketing, Besa's Shoes, Dunlop Slazenger, Electrobus Consolidated, Gainers Marketing, Golf King, Golf Pro, Kart Plaza, Master Sports/Mizuno, Pacsports/Nike Golf, Pinnacle Distributors, Planet Sports/Callaway, Raymundo's Trophies and Sculptures and WS Sports Inc.

The summer show serves as the compressed version of the Philippine International Golf Show, which is usually held in September or October.

GDAP president Lovell Gopez said the organization's members want to provide local aficionados with another venue to showcase the latest trends in the market.

"We have basically most of the big brands and we're quite optimistic with the results of this trial run of a summer show," Gopez said.

### Milo Checkmate under way

THE SECOND WEEKLY SUMMER SERIES OF THE Milo Checkmate chess clinic in Metro Manila kicks off tomorrow at four venues. The chess classes will be held at the Lower 2F of St. Francis Square (behind SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City) from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; 4F J&F Divino Building at 967 Aurora Boulevard (near LRT 2 Anonas Station), Quezon City, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; San Beda College-Alabang from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and at the Badminton Building of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Open to kids 5 to 18 years old, the courses offered are preparatory, beginners, intermediate and advance. For inquiries, call 826-8560, 0916-8521069 or 0922-532-7392.

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# Henin-Hardenne forges clash with Schnyder

HENIN-HARDENNE: Through

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA —Defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne kept her perfect record in the Family Circle Cup in beating seventh-seeded Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-1 on Friday to advance to the semifinals.

The top-seeded Henin-Hardenne won her 14th straight match here and meets Patty Schnyder, a 6-0, 6-3 winner over Nathalie Dechy, in Saturday's semifinals.

"It's great, but tomorrow is another day, another situation and another good opponent," Henin-Hardenne said.

Nadia Petrova of Russia cruised to a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Catalina Castano and advanced to face doubles partner Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany. Groenefeld had a tougher time beating Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 7-6 (4) to reach the semifinals of a top-tier tournament for the first time.

Henin-Hardenne said she felt more comfortable on the green clay as her match went on. After Safina tied the first set 4-4, Henin-Hardenne settled in and won the next two games.

"It takes a little bit of time to... feel better, to feel more comfortable on the surface," Henin-Hardenne said. "Especially with the slide, when I have to slide and I'm not very used to it this year."

Schnyder, the Family Circle Cup runner-up in 2002, has now made it to the tournament semifinals three straight years. She is 3-2 against Dechy.

"I was just concentrating. I didn't feel too good but everything worked out and I'm extremely happy I could make it again to the semis," Schnyder said. "Justine, she's just the best clay court player and I have to play an unbelievable match to have a chance to win."

The second-seeded Petrova is looking for her third WTA Tour victory this year and second straight after winning last week at Amelia Island. She also won at Doha last month.

After dropping the first set in the 85-degree (29-degree C) heat, Kuznetsova fought back in the second to force the tiebreaker. She fell behind 5-1, but won three straight points—the first when Groenefeld double-faulted—and pulled within one before hitting a return wide to give Groenefeld the match.

Groenefeld spread her arms wide and swung her racket at the air when the shot went wide.

"I can't say there were a lot of butterflies but for sure, it's always intense when you're out there and you're leading and you know you can beat a top-10 player," said Groenefeld, who overcame 12 double faults. *AP*

# Akiko gives it all for first love

AKIKO THOMSON, LONG RETIRED AND with no obligation to give anything back to Philippine swimming, is priming herself up to serve the interest of the sport as much as she can.

The bemedalled former national swimmer has been named secretary general of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association. To serve her duties well, the comely Thomson has started attending a one-year sports management course in Switzerland.

Akiko, 31, will soon launch a national advocacy program dubbed "Swimming is Life," which the swim body will implement together with long-term partner Arena.

"Swimming is a life-skill and you never know when you will need it," she said.

"The thrust of the program is to be able to teach every Filipino the basics of swimming."

The Pasa couldn't have gained a better spokesperson for this project than Thomson, who retired at the peak of her abilities nine years ago at only 22 years old.

She represented the Philippines in three Olympic Games and swam for seven Southeast Asian Games gold medals in one of the fondly remembered careers by any Filipino athlete in the 1990s.

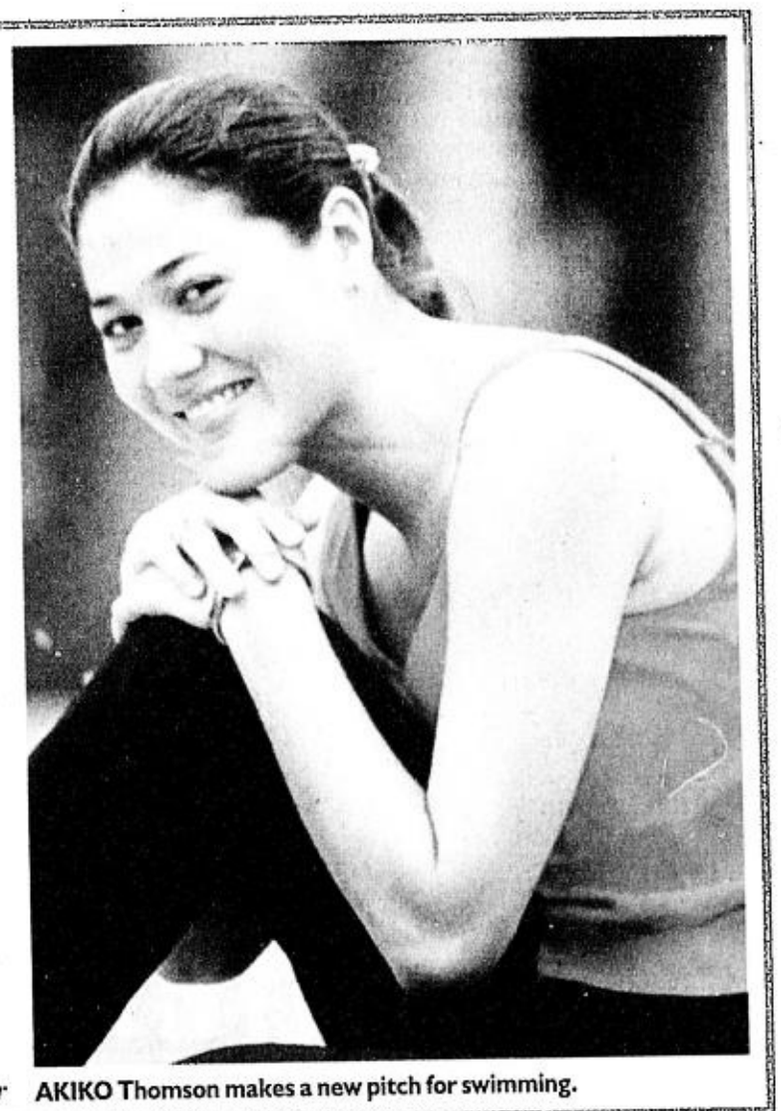
And looking back, Thomson, born to a Japanese mother and American father, both longtime Manila residents, thinks she may have retired too soon.

"I wish I had dreamt more of an Olympic medal instead of just being happy with making it to the Olympic Games," said Thomson, who wore the Philippine colors in the 1988 Games in Seoul, in Barcelona in 1992 and in Atlanta in 1996.

"After Atlanta, I felt that my career had come full circle," Thomson added. "I was just tired of swimming and I wanted to move on to other things in life."

Former swimming champions Mark Joseph, the Pasa president, Ral Rosario, and Pinky Brosas are the other personalities involved in helping Philippine swimming get back to its feet.

Rosario, also a former Pasa head, is a former Asiad champion. *Lito Cinco, contributor*



AKIKO Thomson makes a new pitch for swimming.

# *Martinez, ex-Wimby champion, calls it quits*

MADRID—CONCHITA MARTINEZ, THE ONLY Spanish woman to win the Wimbledon singles title, announced her retirement on Saturday.

Martinez, who will turn 34 on Sunday, prevented Martina Navratilova from winning a 10th Wimbledon singles title when she beat the American in the 1994 final.

The baseliner reached two other grand slam finals in her career, losing to Martina Hingis in the Australian Open in 1998 and to Mary Pierce at Roland Garros in 2000.

"It wasn't an easy decision, but everything has to come to an end," Martinez told a news conference in Valencia.

### Hard times

"There were some hard times but in the end the successes will always remain."

Overall she won 33 singles titles after turning professional in 1988, her last victory coming in 2005 when she won at Pattaya City in Thailand.

She won five Fed Cup titles with Spain and took part in four Olympics, winning silver in the doubles at Barcelona in 1992 and Athens in 2004, and a bronze at Atlanta in 1996. *Reuters*

# NBA mentor Wood is Elite caging camp facilitator

A 10-YEAR NBA VETERAN AND COACH par excellence has dedicated six straight days to impart his knowledge in basketball to young Filipino athletes.

In the first Nike Elite Basketball Camp (EBC), David Wood, a 6-foot-11 journeyman who saw action for the Detroit Pistons, Phoenix Suns and Dallas Mavericks, served as EBC's head camp facilitator.

Alex Compton, EBC project director, described the schedule of the six-day camp as "eat, drills and games from 9 a.m. until their eyes closed around 11 p.m."

The expertise Wood has gained as an NBA player and coach makes him an idol to the participants and the local basketball community.

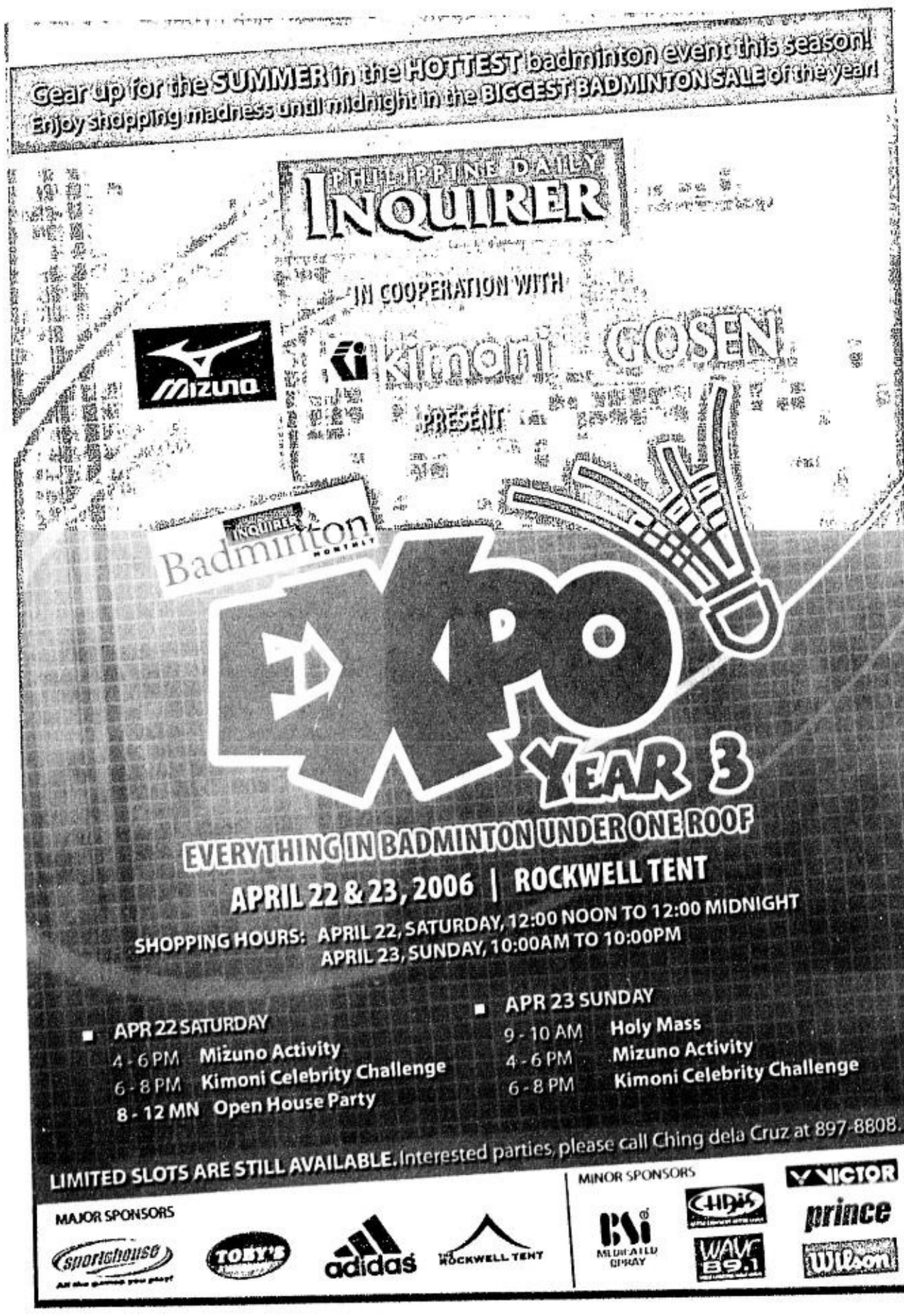
Wood is well-loved and well-respected because of the work ethic he has practiced all throughout his career, and he shared this and his life in and out of the court with the 80 elite student-athletes.

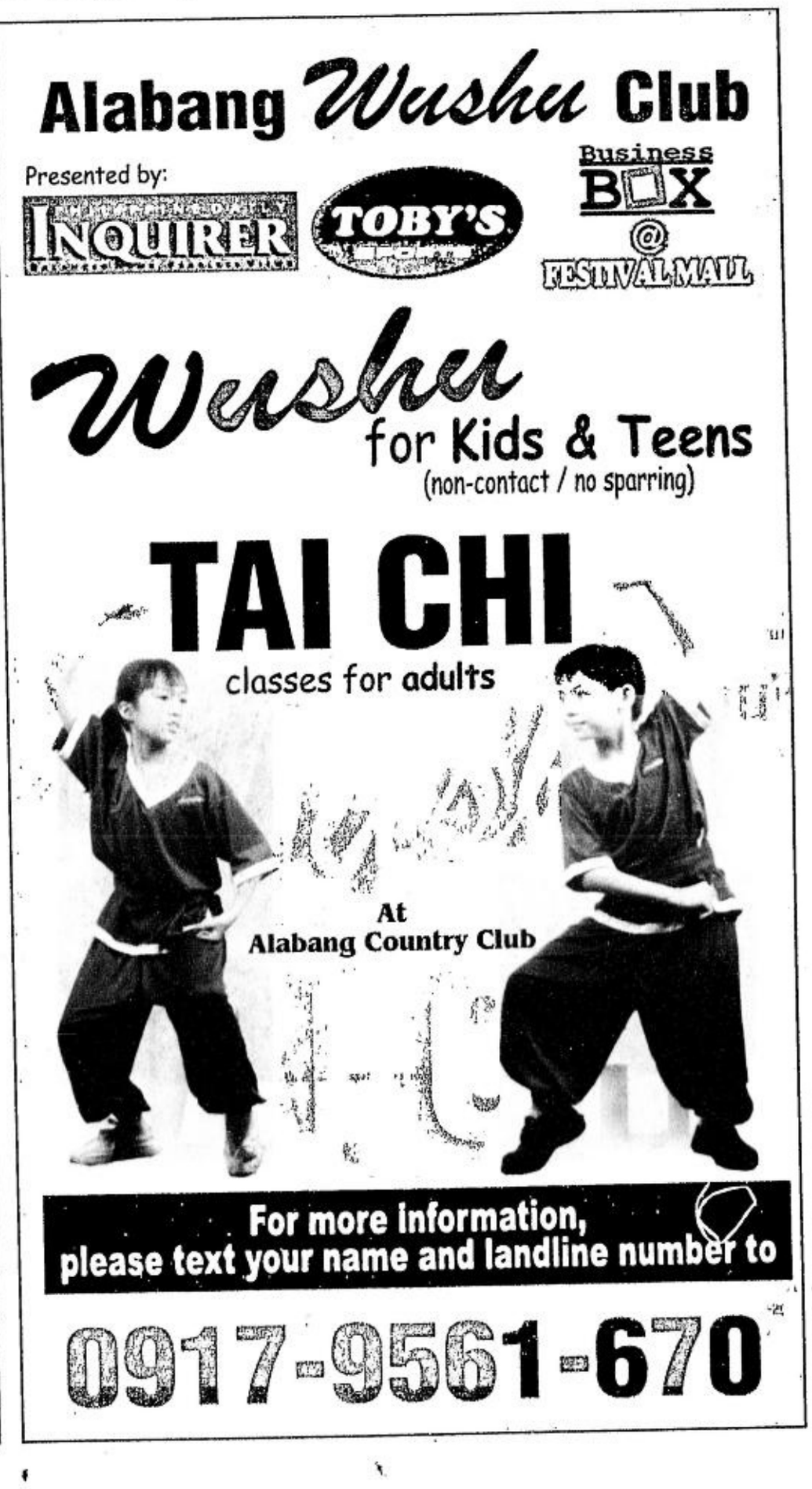
Nike, Samsung, PLDT, Gatorade, Petron Xtra Unleaded and Addict Mobile Prepaid sponsored the project.

A live telecast of the Elite Basketball camp all-star game was shown on Studio 23 at 4 p.m. last April 12.

### 3 more BEST prov'l venues

MILO BEST CENTER HAS ADDED THREE MORE venues to its provincial summer basketball program. These are the Enverga gym in Lucena City, the St. Scholastica's College gym in San Fernando, Pampanga, and the Easter College gym in Baguio City. For inquiries, call Ato del Mundo (042 788-5097) and Ompong Segura (0917-302-0614) in Lucena, Greg Bugayong (0917-922-2849) and Precy (044 961-1970/0916-244-8779) in Pampanga and Antonio del Monte (0915-811-1346/0918-561-8364) in Baguio.

# Ochoa maintains lead; Delasin 6 behind

BY TWO SHOTS: Lorena Ochoa

LAS VEGAS—LORENA OCHOA SHOT A 4-under-par 68 in windy conditions to take a two-stroke lead over Brittany Lincicome in the Takefuji Classic on Friday.

After an opening 63 in ideal conditions the previous day, Ochoa didn't tee off until noon and had to contend with afternoon gusts that whipped the flags on the greens. She was at 13-under 131 through two days of the 54-hole US LPGA Tour event.

Lincicome completed most of her round of 65 before the wind kicked up. So did Paula Creamer and Seon Hwa Lee, both three strokes back at 10 under. Creamer shot a 64, and Lee had a 67. Shi Hyun Ahn (70) was four shots off Ochoa's pace.

**Fil-American Dorothy Delasin stood in a seven-way tie for fifth at 137 with rounds of 69-68 while Jennifer Rosales had two straight 72s for 144.**

The sky was overcast and, although only a few drops of rain fell during the day, play was halted for 38 minutes in the afternoon because of lightning.

Ochoa was on the back nine, 3 under for the day and 12 under for the tournament, when play was interrupted. When play resumed, she went par, birdie, par to complete the round. She holed a 12-footer for birdie on No. 17.

The 24-year-old Ochoa, from Guadalajara, Mexico, finished a fast-closing second in Las Vegas last year, bouncing back from an opening 74 with rounds of 63-65 to fall just two shots short of catching Wendy Ward.

Ochoa, who joined the U. tour in 2003 and won three times in the last two seasons, has come close in three of the five events she's played this year.

She twice lost in playoffs, including to Karrie Webb in the Kraft Nabisco Championship this month, and finished fourth in another tournament.

"I know my game is there, so tomorrow, I'm going to try to fire at the flag and keep making birdies, because on a course like this, you never know what's going to happen," Ochoa said.

The 20-year-old Lincicome is in her second year on the tour.

"Finally playing the way that I wanted to play," she said. "All year, I get too excited the first round. I want to be 10 under the first day and it just doesn't happen like that."

The 19-year-old Creamer rolled in a 35-foot birdie putt on No. 9, which began a string of four birdies in five holes. *AP*

# Mickelson makes most of the majors

MICKELSON

LOS ANGELES—JUST over two years ago, Phil Mickelson was weighed down with the unwanted tag of being arguably the best player in history not to have won a major championship.

Following his consummate two-shot victory at the US Masters five days ago, he is now on track to accomplish what only Tiger Woods has managed to do in professional golf: hold all four majors at one time.

Having clinched the US PGA Championship at Baltusrol last August, Mickelson needs to claim the US Open title at Winged Foot in June and then the British Open crown at Hoylake in July to complete the set.

Although the American left-hander was quick to downplay any suggestion of grand slam talk as he basked in the afterglow of his second triumph at Augusta National, such speculation is certainly justified.

### Sea change

World No. 2 Mickelson has undergone an extraordinary sea change over the last three years.

Once the Riverboat Gambler of global golf who richly entertained the fans with his swashbuckling but ultimately unsuccessful play at the majors, Mickelson is now the ice-cool assassin.

Having completed his first 42 majors as a professional without success, the meticulous Mickelson has now triumphed three times in his last nine starts.

His major breakthrough came at the 2004 Masters, where he holed an 18-foot birdie putt at the last to beat Ernie Els by a stroke.

A fair measure of this success can be attributed to "Team Mickelson," comprising the golfer himself along with his short-game guru Dave Pelz and swing coach Rick Smith.

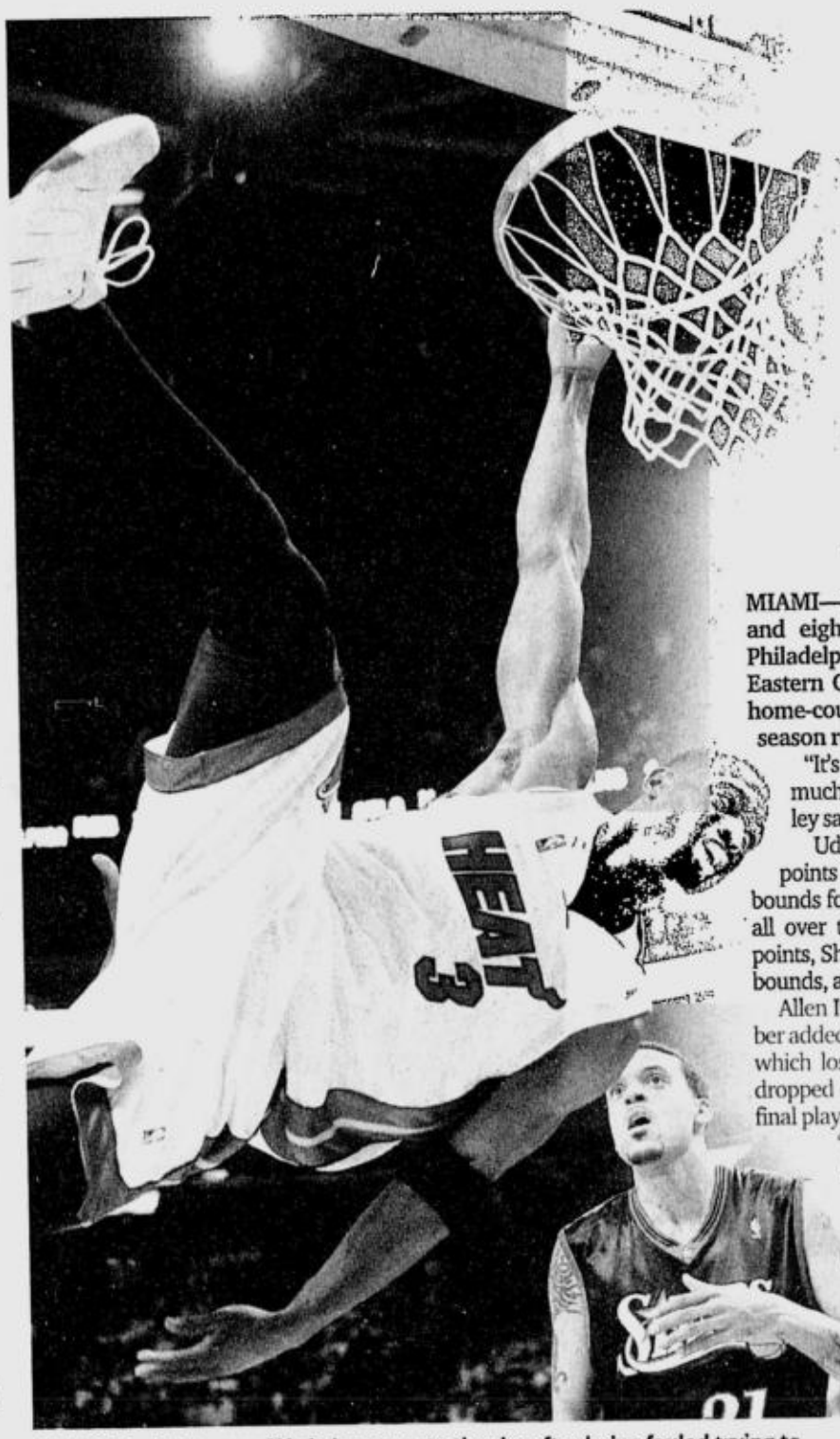
"I couldn't have done this by myself," three-times major winner Mickelson told reporters after sealing his 29th PGA Tour victory at Augusta.

"I have practiced hard but I maybe didn't practice the right way or on the right things. To have the help from Dave Pelz and Rick Smith has really given me the guidance.

"It took him a while to learn to play the majors," said South African Retief Goosen, who held off Mickelson to claim the 2004 US Open at Shinnecock Hills.

"He was way too aggressive and took too many chances. We all knew that. But he's got it under control now." *Reuters*

# Heat secure East's No. 2 playoff seed


MIAMI Heat's Dwyane Wade hangs on to the rim after being fouled trying to dunk in the second half against the Philadelphia 76ers Friday in Miami, Florida. AFP

MIAMI—DWAYNE WADE HAD 25 POINTS and eight assists to lead Miami over the Philadelphia 76ers, 104-85, and secure the Eastern Conference's No. 2 playoff seed and home-court advantage for the first two postseason rounds.

"It's good to get this, but it doesn't mean much unless you use it," Miami coach Pat Riley said.

Udonis Haslem scored a career-high 24 points and tied his season high with 14 rebounds for the Heat, who got contributions from all over the lineup; Antoine Walker scored 16 points, Shaquille O'Neal had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Gary Payton scored 10 points.

Allen Iverson scored 30 points and Chris Webber added 17 and nine rebounds for Philadelphia, which lost for the first time in four games and dropped one game behind Chicago for the East's final playoff spot.

"I don't think the loss will make us play any harder," Iverson said. "If you aren't playing hard at this point, then you aren't going to be playing hard anyway."

### Bucks 97, Knicks 80

In New York, Michael Redd scored 18 of his 23 points in the first half, then Milwaukee blew open the game in the third quarter and beat New York.

Knicks coach Larry Brown missed his first game of the season after he was hospitalized in Cleveland on Thursday with a stomach ailment. He returned to New York on Friday, but assistant coach Herb Williams led the team.

### Raptors 108, Pistons 103

At Toronto, Mike James scored 20 of his career-high 39 points in the fourth quarter to help Toronto end a 10-game losing streak.

James, who scored Toronto's last 13 points, surpassed his previous career high of 38, set in November against Philadelphia.

Chauncey Billups had 15 points—on 6-for-6 shooting from the field—and added 10 assists for the Pistons, who already clinched home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. Detroit rested its starters in the fourth quarter.

### Lakers 110, Blazers 99

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant broke the Lakers' single-season scoring record with a flourish, getting 50 points to eclipse Elgin Baylor's long-standing total.

Bryant, closing in on his first NBA scoring title, reached the 50-point mark for the sixth time this season and 11th time in his career.

Lamar Odom recorded his second straight triple-double finishing with 16 points and 12 rebounds and tied a career high with 12 assists.

**Other NBA results:** Bobcats 116, Hawks 110; Pacers 89, Timberwolves 77; Bulls 103, Wizards 101; Jazz 105, Hornets 104; Lakers 110, Trail Blazers 99; Nets 79, Celtics 74; Clippers 101, SuperSonics 97; Warriors 110, Suns 102. *AP*

# Yao has surgery on broken foot

YAO: To miss world tourney

HOUSTON—ROCKETS CENTER Yao Ming had surgery on Friday to repair a broken bone in his left foot, an official of the Houston team said.

Yao broke the fifth metatarsal in his foot in a loss to Utah on Monday.

Team physician Dr. Tom Clanton performed the surgery at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center in Houston.

Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson said on Tuesday that Yao could be sidelined for four to six months, but expects him to be ready by next season.

The injury could keep Yao from playing for the Chinese team in the world championship, which begins on Aug. 19 in Saitama, Japan.

Earlier this season, Yao missed 21 games following surgery to remove an infection from his left big toe.

Since the All-Star break, Yao was one of the NBA's top performers, averaging 26.6 points and 12 rebounds.

Eliminated from playoff contention, the Rockets have three games left, starting with Saturday's game against the Memphis. Grizzlies. *AP*

# Superb Schilling sacks Seattle

BOSTON—PITCHING AT HOME FOR the first time this season, Curt Schilling allowed one run and three hits in eight innings to lead the Boston Red Sox over the Seattle Mariners 2-1 on Friday.

Schilling (3-0) has won his first three starts for the first time since 2002, showing once again that the right ankle that bothered him the last two years is strong. His ERA dropped from 1.93 to 1.64 as he struck out seven and didn't allow a walk.

"I wasn't sure what I was going to be this year," said Schilling. "I feel I'm pitching better than I ever have."

Schilling got all the support he needed from an unlikely source. Alex Gonzalez, signed as a free agent for his fielding prowess at shortstop and not his hitting ability, drove in both runs with a double in the fourth and went 3-for-4 with two doubles off Jamie Moyer (0-2).

In Baltimore, Ramon Hernandez hit a tiebreaking homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Orioles nipped the California Angels, 6-5.

Hernandez connected on a 3-2 pitch from Scot Shields (1-1), his homer the fourth by the Orioles in a game that featured eight.

SAN Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds (25) is taunted by fans as he walks to the dugout after flying out in the second inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers. AP

In Detroit, Kenny Rogers won his home debut and Brandon Inge homered twice as the Tigers blasted the Cleveland Indians, 5-1.

Rogers (2-1) allowed one run and seven hits in eight innings, struck out five and walked three.

Chris Shelton had a triple and a double, and he is hitting .512. Detroit has 13 extra-base hits in its last two games.

**Other matches:** Tampa Bay d. Kansas City, 7-2; Minnesota d. New York Yankees, 5-1; Toronto d. Chicago, 13-7; Texas d. Oakland, 6-3. *AP*

# Francoeur powers Braves past Padres

ATLANTA—JEFF FRANCOEUR HOMERED FOR the second night in a row, hitting a two-out shot in the eighth inning for the Atlanta Braves to edge the San Diego Padres 5-4 in the National League on Friday.

After starting the season with only two hits in 36 at-bats, last year's rookie sensation homered twice on Thursday in a loss to Philadelphia. He followed up with three hits against the Padres, including a liner off Scott Linebrink (0-1) that barely cleared the wall.

Oscar Villareal (4-0) became the first four-game winner in the majors with a scoreless eighth.

Tim Hudson got off to another rough start for the Braves, giving up a run-scoring double in the first. But he finally made it beyond four innings for the first time this season.

**Other matches:** San Diego d. Pittsburgh, 11-6; Florida d. Washington, 5-3; Cincinnati d. St. Louis, 1-0; New York Mets d. Milwaukee, 4-3; Philadelphia d. Colorado, 10-8; Arizona d. Houston, 5-1. *AP*

# Furyk seizes 2-shot lead in Heritage tilt

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA—Jim Furyk added his own touch to Harbour Town's famous 18th hole on Friday, rolling in a 56-foot birdie putt for a two-shot lead in the Heritage hours after Aaron Baddeley's unlikely eagle there.

Putting from the back fringe, Furyk had simply hoped for a good lag and an easy par on the final hole. Instead, he watched his ball strike the flagstick and fall in. His 4-under 67 left him at 11 under, two strokes in front of Baddeley (67), Brian Gay (67), Duffy Waldorf (68) and first-round leader Vaughn Taylor (70).

Furyk's long birdie also added to the Friday fireworks near the lighthouse hole.

Baddeley capped a late charge—he had three birdies and the eagle in his final five holes—at the seaside hole featuring a red-and-white striped lighthouse as a backdrop.

Baddeley struck an 8-iron about 160 yards that hit the green and bounced into the cup. The 25-year-old Australian heard the crowd's cheers and wondered how close he'd gotten. *AP*

# Haas stuns Roddick again, gains semis

HOUSTON—FIFTH-SEEDED TOMMY HAAS dominated Andy Roddick on clay again, beating the No. 1 seed a fourth straight time in a quarterfinal at the US Men's Clay Court Championship on Friday.

Haas rallied from one set down to win 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 in a matchup that Roddick said could have been the final. It was two years ago.

Haas will play American Mardy Fish in one semifinal on Saturday.

Seventh-seeded Paul Goldstein of the United States plays Austria's Jurgen Melzer in the other semifinal.

Haas, from Germany, beat Roddick twice on clay in 2002 in Monte Carlo and Rome, and again in 2004 in the final here.

Fish beat fellow American Vince Spadea, 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4, in a match that saw its share of service breaks.

Goldstein struggled occasionally with his serve but he was steady enough to beat Albert Montanes of Spain 6-3, 6-4.

Melzer gained the spot with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Fernando Vicente of Spain. *AP*

RODDICK: Four in a row

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2157 and 2161. Series of 2006

*Editor* **Emmie G. Velarde**

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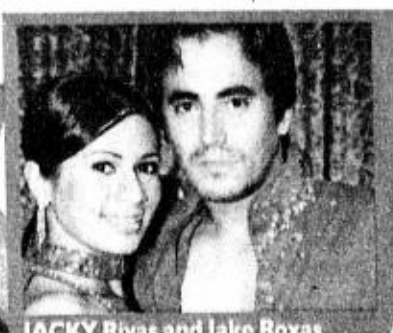
# ENTERTAINMENT

# Are sexy dancers playing network musical chairs?

MYSTICA and Miguel de la Serna



JACKY Rivas and Jake Roxas

AIRA Bermudez and Michael de Mesa

TIRSO Cruz III and Mia Pangyarihan

CHE-CHE Tolentino and Boboy Garrovillo

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**

ARE THE SEXBOMB GIRLS OFFICIALLY switching network allegiances with the participation of Aira Bermudez, Che-Che Tolentino, Jacky Rivas and Mia Pangyarihan in the celebrity ballroom competition, "Shall We Dance?" on ABC 5?

"No," was the emphatic denial of manager-choreographer Joy Cancio. "They are just guesting on the ABC show. We won't leave GMA 7."

Although the girls have stopped appearing on GMA 7's noontime show "Eat... Bulaga!" their afternoon soap opera "Daisy Siete" is still being aired by the network, Cancio told INQUIRER Entertainment.

"The latest season of 'Daisy Siete: Sayaw ng Puso' will run for another week," said Cancio. "We hope to launch the soap's new season next week. 'Daisy Siete" is in partnership with GMA 7 and my production company, Focus E Entertainment. It's not under Tape Inc. [which produces "Eat... Bulaga!"]."

Cancio said she couldn't understand why people were pitting them against their former bosses and colleagues on "Eat... Bulaga!"

For the record, she said, "I love and respect 'Eat... Bulaga!'"

Another scuttlebutt alleged that the girls were now performing in sexy clubs.

"That's not true," Cancio gasped. "From Klownz, we moved to comedy clubs Laffline and Punchline. Why are they putting us

ARE SEXY/ A2-3

## Sexbomb girls go strictly ballroom; Mystica makes the cut

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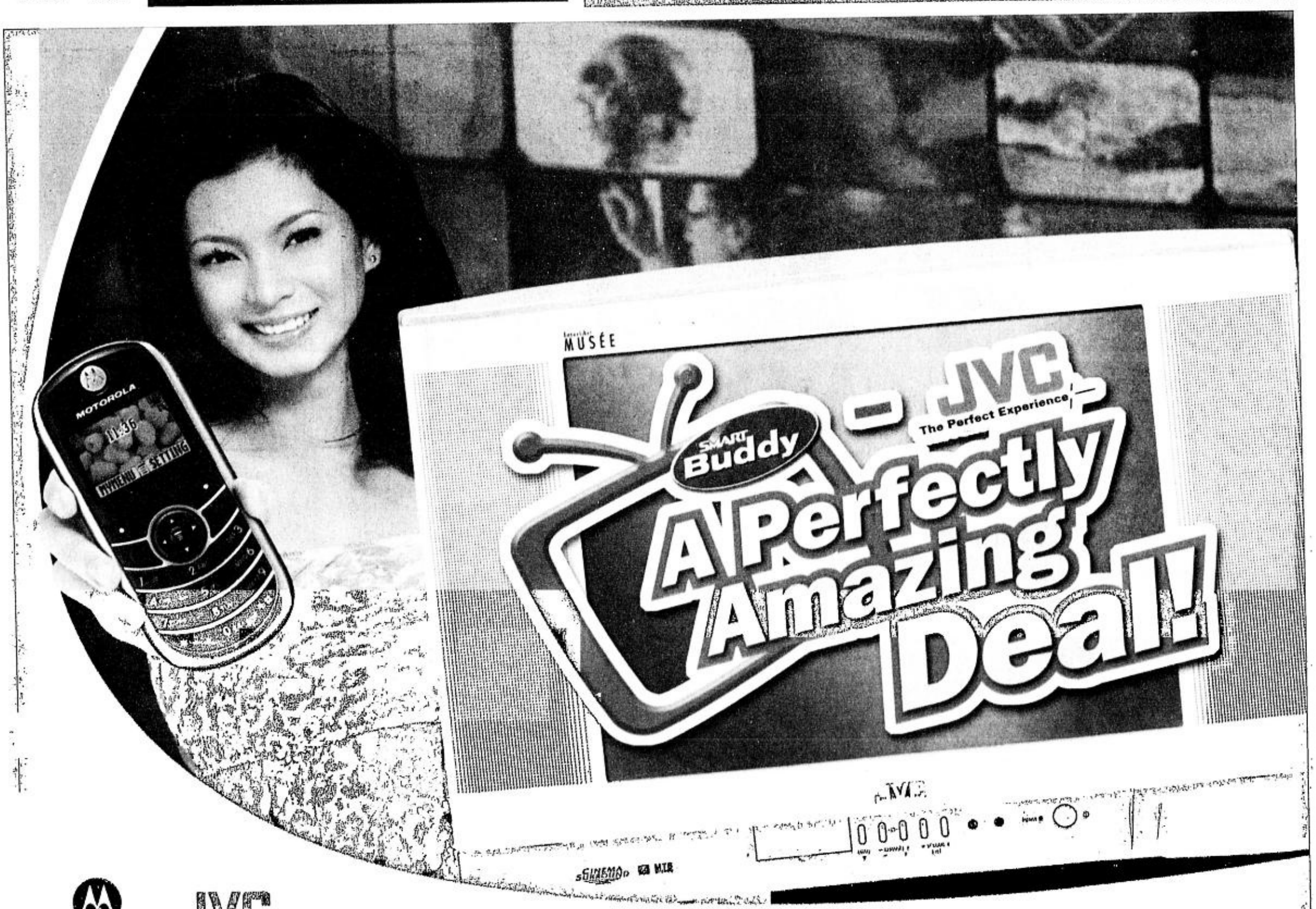


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# The real Bo Bice

From page A2-4

Constantine Maroulis.

The rest of the tracks may be summed up as "safe" and "tested" by rock standards but they're melodic and rendered well. A different one stands out with every spin—"Nothing Without You" now, "Willing To Try" next, and so on. That's a good start.

SITTI

## Uncanny mix

TRUMPETEER Chris Botti gathers nine guest vocalists on his new album "To Love Again" and, eclectic as the combination looks at first glance, guess what... the mix turns out to be potent. Not like a bomb or anything that explodes but rather, like a spellbinding potion.

Imagine Sting doing "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?" and Michael Bublé with "Let There Be Love." Now try to hear in your mind Paula Cole singing "My One and Only Love." There's also Paul Buchanan's heartbreaking (to the point of torment) rendition of "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" and Rosa Passos doing "Here Comes that Rainy Day."

But the big surprise is Steven Tyler on "Smile." You gotta hear this one to believe it.

The real star of the collection, of course, is Botti who, to his highest credit, plays it like he's content orchestrating the music (with the London Session Orchestra once again) and binding every number with his non-intrusive solos. A must-have, this CD.

## Swing Out in Tokyo

NOW available in record stores nationwide, "Swing Out Sister Live in Tokyo," with the scintillating Corinne Drewery on vocals. This collection features new arrangements of the group's million-sellers like "Breakout," "La La Means I Love You" and "Am I the Same Girl."

## Not from Ipanema

SITTI is not from Ipanema, she's proudly Pinay. But she does wonderful things with the bossa nova!

Her name means "princess," and she might as well be in the local music circuit. Her singing style is relaxed and soothing, even when she tackles complicated jazz strains.

Sitti's solo album, "Café Bossa" from Warner Music Philippines, is currently number 1 at O Music & Video in Rockwell. Carrier single is "Tattooed on My Mind," but check out "Lady Wants to Know," a Michael Franks original, and the medley, "Close to You/Half a Minute."

CHRIS Botti

Sitti also interprets Bong Peñera's "Samba Song," and Jobim's "One Note Samba."

## Hot summer on 93.1

"THE RX Concert Series" showcases top OPM artists throughout April and May: Dictalicense tomorrow, Color It Redd on April 24, Michael Angelo on May 1, Barbie Almabis and Pupil on May 8, Mojofly on May 15. Hosted by two-time Golden Dove winner Francesca, "Concert Series" air live Mondays, 6 to 7 p.m.

SWING OUT SISTER

# Are sexy dancers . . .

From page A2-1

down? We transferred clubs and accepted 'Shall We Dance?' so that the girls would become more versatile."

For "Daisy," which is set in the ballroom dancing world, the girls learned to rumba and samba, Cancio pointed out. "On 'Shall We Dance?' they get to work with different choreographers and sample all sorts of styles, from cha-cha to swing."

She predicted that Aira would stand out in the contest. "She was already a seasoned dancer when I got her. Ballroom dancing is like a marathon and her edge is her stamina."

The Sexbomb dancers are the partners of celebrity challengers Tirso Cruz III, Michael de Mesa, Boboy Garrovillo and Jake Roxas in the latest edition of "Shall We Dance?" which premieres today.

## Mystica's win

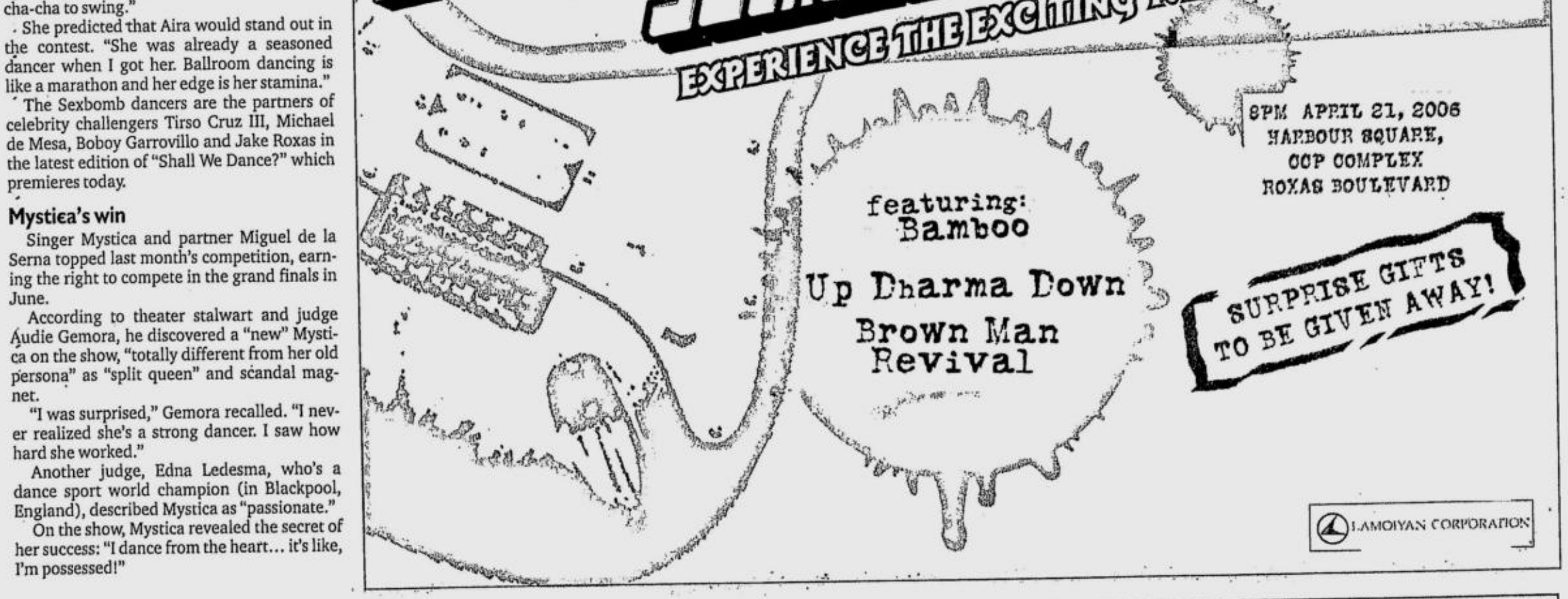
Singer Mystica and partner Miguel de la Serna topped last month's competition, earning the right to compete in the grand finals in June.

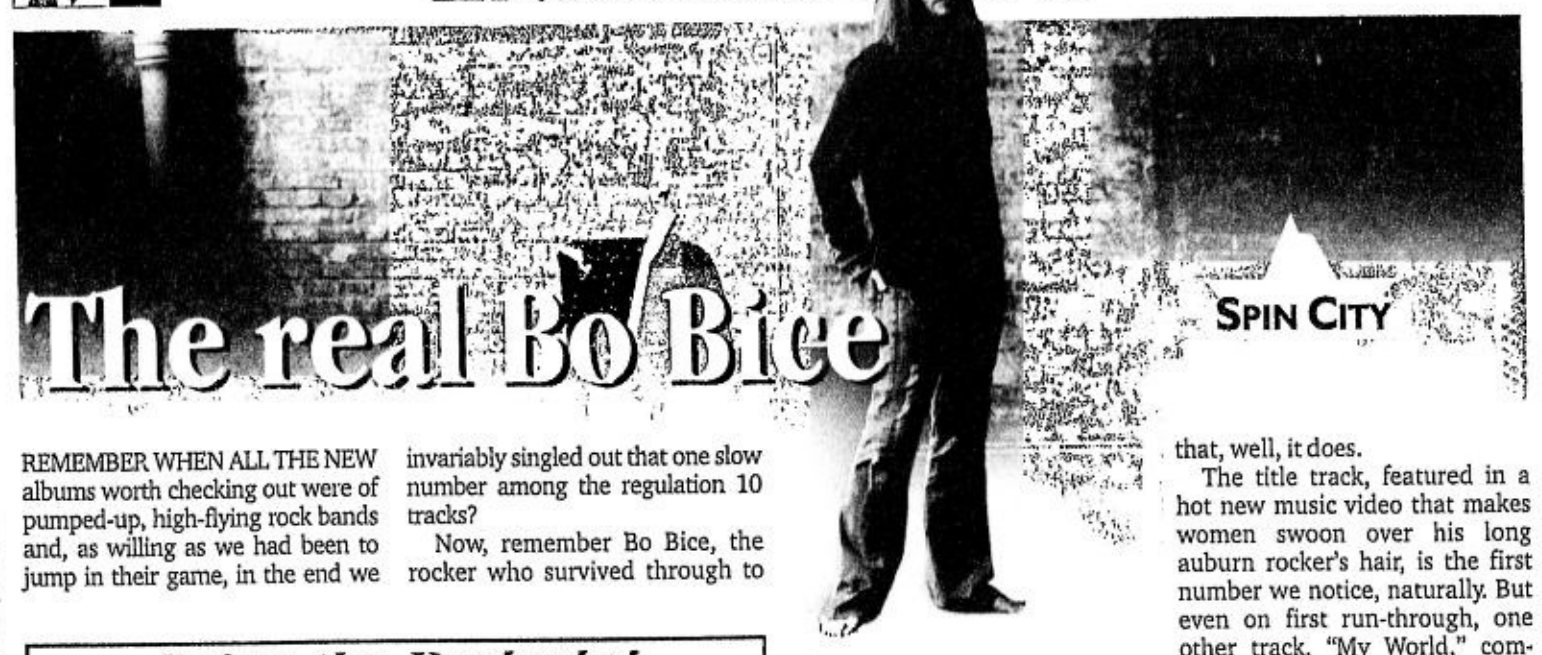
According to theater stalwart and judge Audie Gemora, he discovered a "new" Mystica on the show, "totally different from her old persona" as "split queen" and scandal magnet.

"I was surprised," Gemora recalled. "I never realized she's a strong dancer. I saw how hard she worked."

Another judge, Edna Ledesma, who's a dance sport world champion (in Blackpool, England), described Mystica as "passionate."

On the show, Mystica revealed the secret of her success: "I dance from the heart... it's like, I'm possessed!"





SPIN CITY

# The real Bo Bice

REMEMBER WHEN ALL THE NEW albums worth checking out were of pumped-up, high-flying rock bands and, as willing as we had been to jump in their game, in the end we invariably singled out that one slow number among the regulation 10 tracks?

Now, remember Bo Bice, the rocker who survived through to the top two of last year's "American Idol?"

Bo's debut album, "The Real Thing," consists of 11 such slow rock ditties. This deliberate positioning should work for his fans over on this side of the Pacific. And it's really not too early to say that, well, it does.

The title track, featured in a hot new music video that makes women swoon over his long auburn rocker's hair, is the first number we notice, naturally. But even on first run-through, one other track, "My World," competes for attention.

Bo sounds like many beloved rock soloists we know, including Jon Bon Jovi at times, but on the whole, he really just comes across as the "Idol" contender who stole away many hearts, in spite of

THE REAL/ A2-3

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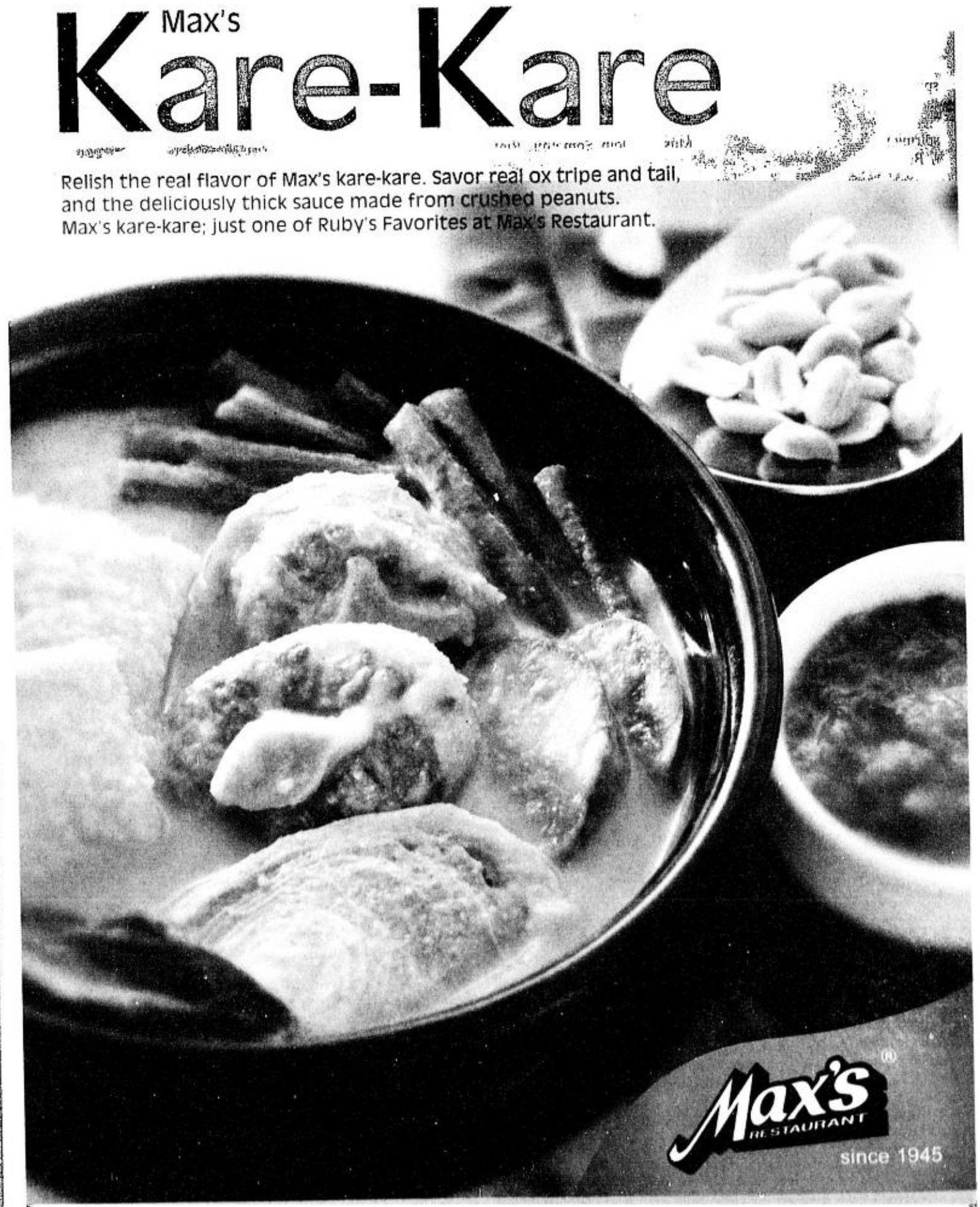

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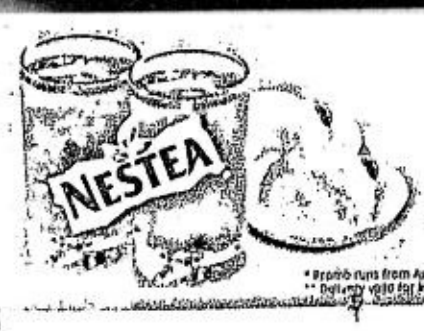


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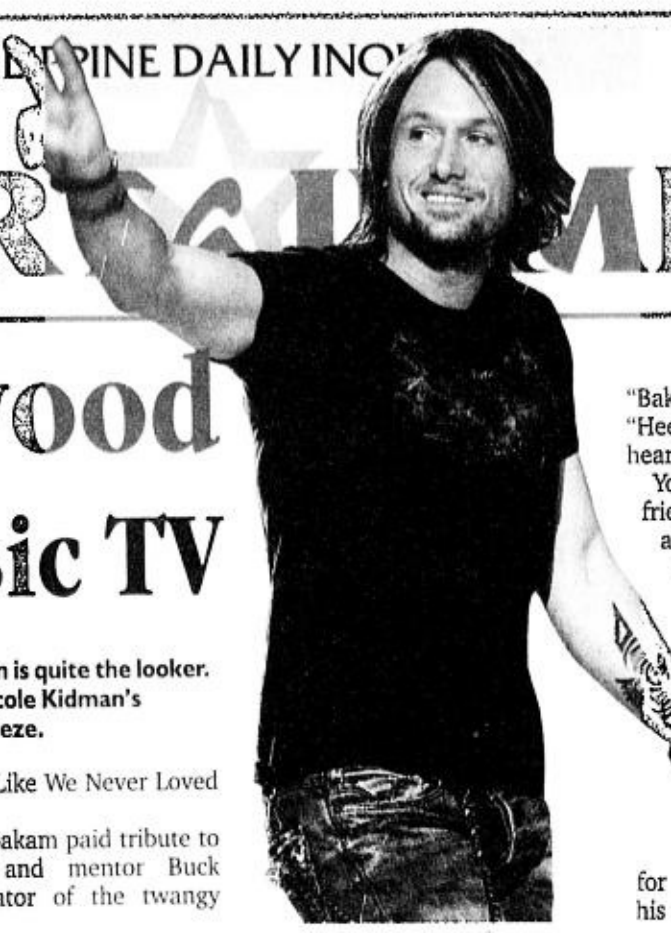
# Urban and Underwood rule US country music TV



KEITH Urban is quite the looker. He is also Nicole Kidman's current squeeze.

NASHVILLE, TENnessee—Keith Urban won Video of the Year and Carrie Underwood of "American Idol" was the only double winner at the Country Music Television awards show Monday.

Keith performed the song for his winning video, "Better Life," with a displaced choir from the Gulf Coast and scenes from the hurricane-damaged region.

"We just wanted to present a better tone for 'Better Life,' and I had been down to New Orleans and was struck by a combination of things—how much has been done and how little has been done," Urban said. "We just wanted to bring a little more awareness back to the cause down there."

Underwood, who launched her career last year after winning the TV singing competition "American Idol," took home honors for Breakthrough Video and Female Video for her inspirational hit "Jesus, Take the Wheel."

"This is my very first acceptance speech so I made a list," Underwood said before thanking everyone from God to "Idol."

"Music videos are a huge tool," she said after the ceremony for the awards, chosen by fans. "Fans love them because they add a new dimension to the song, and we love them because it's just another way to get (the music) out there. For my first video to win two awards tonight was amazing."

Another song with a strong spiritual theme, Brad Paisley's duet with Dolly Parton "When I Get Where I'm Going," won for Inspiring Video.

Bon Jovi and Sugarland singer Jennifer Nettles won Collaborative Video for "Who Says You Can't Go Home," and Kenny Chesney won the Male Video Award for "Who You'd Be Today."

BETTER tone for "Better Life."

"I think everybody has lost somebody before they were meant to, and Shaun Silva and I did this video to help us all remember those people," Chesney said.

Rascal Flatts won the Group/Duo Video award for "Skin (Sarabeth)," about a girl with cancer.

"I think this song took on a life of its own," said Jay DeMarcus of Rascal Flatts. "It became almost bigger than we are, honestly. We were just the voice behind it."

Billy Currington won Hottest Video for his R&B flavored hit "Must Be Doin' Somethin' Right," and Sophie Muller won Video Director for the Faith Hill-Tim McGraw duet "Like We Never Loved At All."

Dwight Yoakam paid tribute to his friend and mentor Buck Owens, creator of the twangy "Bakersfield sound" and longtime "Hee Haw" host, who died of a heart ailment March 25.

Yoakam called Owens the "best friend country music could ever ask for" and an inspiration to thousands of musicians. Owens pioneered the California country rock sound that flourished in the 1960s with such groups as the Byrds, he said.

Hank Williams Jr. received the Johnny Cash Visionary Award for his contributions to country music, joining such previous winners as Loretta Lynn, Reba McEntire and the Dixie Chicks.

"My father changed and molded country music. Johnny Cash changed and molded country music. Waylon Jennings changed and molded country music," Williams said. "I'm just a guy that is another carpenter in a long line, and there's a lot more new ones here tonight."

Fans voted online through April 7 to determine the winners in each category except Video of the Year, which was chosen by fans during the live telecast. The awards were first presented in 2002. *John Gerome, AP*

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For DTI-NCR Permit No. 10281, Series of 2006

JUDGES of the tilt that gave reality shows a shot in the arm.

# New lease on life for reality TV shows

VIEWFINDER



*Nestor U. Torre*

LAST YEAR, THE word was out that reality TV shows were no longer as popular with viewers as they used to be for the past decade. The downward trend was attributed to overkill, since just about every human activity had already been turned into a reality program!

This year, however, producers of reality shows are taking heart because their expected freefall appears to have been (momentarily?) aborted.

What has given reality programs a new lease on life? Not all that surprisingly, the answer is: "American Idol."

All by its lonesome, the singing tilt has proven to be such a hit with viewers that it's given the reality format its much needed second wind.

After all, "AI" is the most popular show on US television, regularly pulling in a viewership of between 25 to 33 million per telecast!

That's a very big deal, because many other shows have more star power and are much more expensive to produce. So "AI" is a hit for all reasons and seasons and its exceptional

NEW/ A3-2

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| 5 ICE AGE 2 | |
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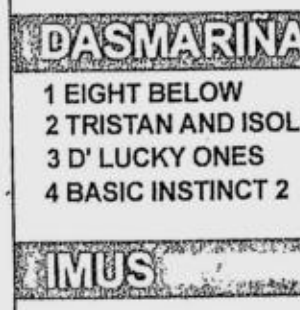

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8 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 D LUCKY ONES
11 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12 SHE'S THE MAN

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2
5 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
6 BANDIDAS
7 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
8 SUBMERGED

**SM CITY DASMARINAS**
1 THE LUCKY ONES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 TRISTAN & ISOLDE

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
1 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 BANDIDAS
5 D LUCKY ONES
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9 ICE AGE 2
10 VENOM
11 CHINESE TALL STORY
12 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

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1 ICE AGE 2
2 SUBMERGED
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 BANDIDAS
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 VENOM
7 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
8 JUST FRIENDS
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

**SM CITY DICUTAN**
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONESE
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY SAN LAZARO**
1 ICE AGE 2
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 D LUCKY ONES

**SM CITY MANILA**
1 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
2 SUBMERGED
3 BANDIDAS
4 ICE AGE 2
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 EIGHT BELOW
7 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 VENOM
11 JUST FRIENDS
12 D LUCKY ONES

**SM CITY SOUTHMALL**
1 ICE AGE 2
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 SUBMERGED
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 D LUCKY ONES
7 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
8 VENOM
9 BANDIDAS

**SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA**
1 D LUCKY ONES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY SUCAT**
1 ICE AGE 2
2 EIGHT BELOW
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

## LUZON

**SM CITY BAGUIO**
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 ICE AGE 2
4 EIGHT BELOW

**SM CITY MARILAO**
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 ICE AGE 2
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY BATANGAS**
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 ICE AGE 2
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

**SM CITY BACOOR**
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 EIGHT BELOW
6 D LUCKY ONES
7 CHINESE TALL STORY
8 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

**SM CITY STA. ROSA**
1 ICE AGE 2
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 EIGHT BELOW

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 ICE AGE 2
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY LUCENA**
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 ICE AGE 2
3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
4 D LUCKY ONES

**SM CITY MOLINO**
1 D LUCKY ONES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 EIGHT BELOW

## VISAYAS MINDANAO

**SM CITY CEBU**
1 ICE AGE 2
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 EIGHT BELOW
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

**SM CITY ILOILO**
1 SHE'S THE MAN
2 RESERVED
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 ICE AGE 2
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 NANNY McPHEE
7 RESERVED
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**SM CITY DAVAO**
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 NORTH COUNTRY
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 ICE AGE 2
6 ULTRAVIOLET

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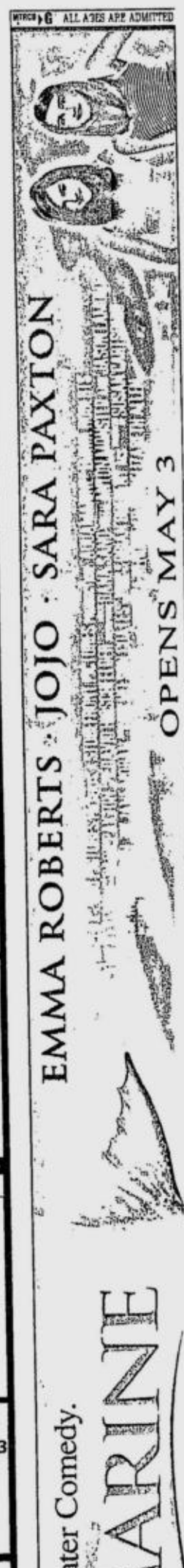
A new batch of reality programs is now being lined up by US networks, each one hoping to get on the good side of viewers



# ENTERTAINMENT

## New lease on life for reality TV shows

From page A3-1

success has heartened producers to come up with a new batch of reality programs that also hope to get on the good side of televiewers.

Leading the pack of new shows is "On the Lot," a search for the best new filmmakers! Giving the program clout is the fact that it's being produced by **Mark Burnett**, whose hit reality shows include "Survivor" and "The Apprentice."

To make it even more of a sure thing, "On the Lot" will also benefit from the iconic presence of **Steven Spielberg**. The acclaimed filmmaker was enticed into joining the show because he's always been big on giving new film peo ple a boost, and that's exactly what the new challenge plans to accomplish.

A couple of TV seasons ago, we caught another program that also provided new filmmakers an opportunity to show what they could do. But that show focused on documentary filmmakers, while "On the Lot" is out to discuss future feature (story) filmmakers.

Each work, they'll be tasked to come up with short films that will be evaluated by jurors and voted on by viewers, with the top scorers moving on to the next round.

It's a hectic format that is designed to separate the grain from the chaff, cinematically speaking, so new filmmakers all over the United States are raring to end up among its 16 prescreened finalists.

Making "On the Lot" an even bigger deal is the fact that its finalists will be able to work with professional film craftsmen, and even with some name actors. All that, and Steven Spielberg, too!

### Kids first

CHILDREN come first in the Nickelodeon channel, which conducts thousands of interviews with kids and caregivers around the world to find out their viewing preferences.

An extensive checklist must be ticked off before a program can make it on the Nick channels it safe for kids? Is it respectful of them? Are kids the focus of the show? Is it interactive, entertaining and humorous? Does it promote teamwork, sharing, friendship and cooperation? Are there strong characters and storylines? Does it adhere to Nick's "play to learn, learn to play" philosophy?

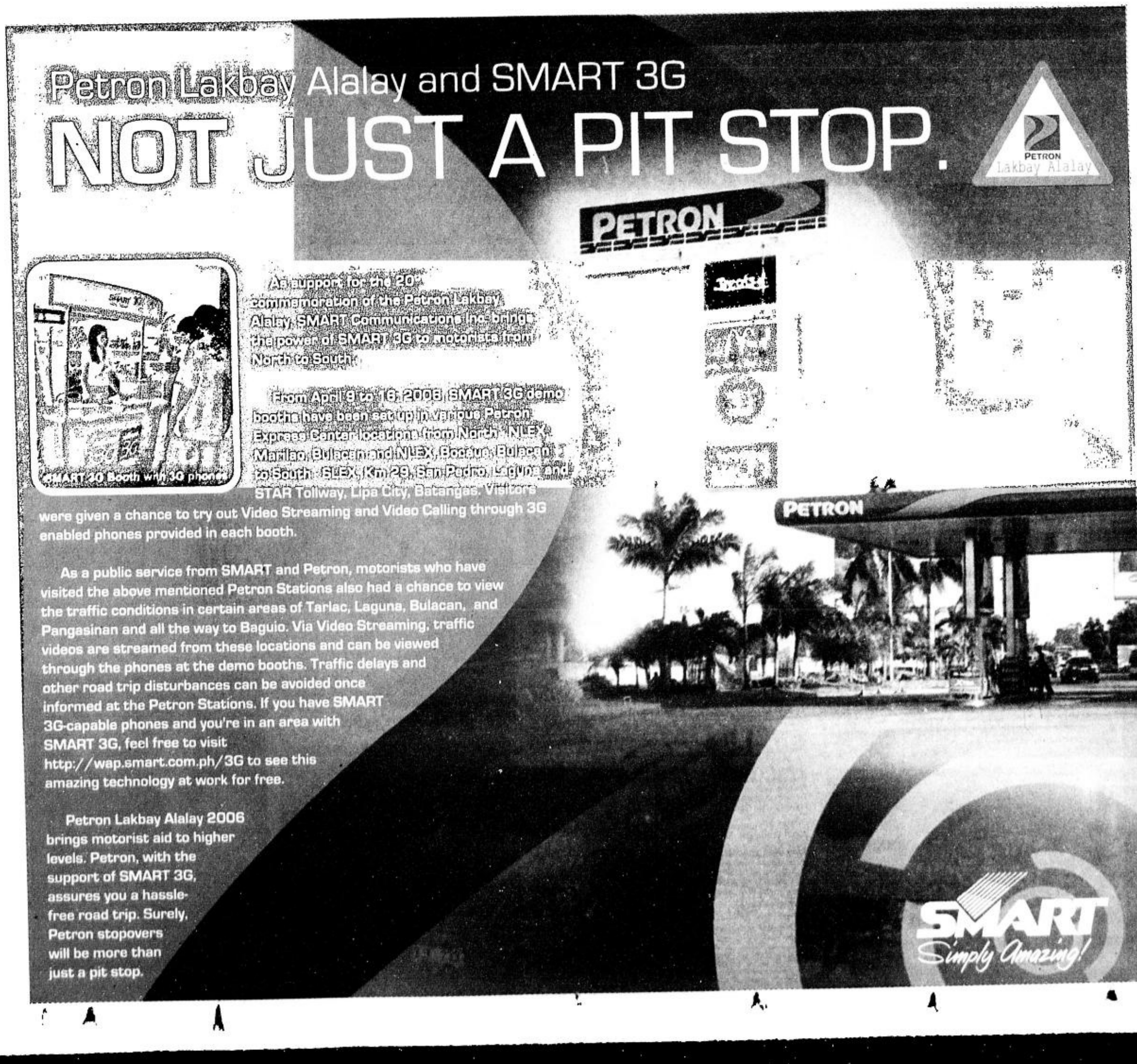
New shows on the Nick channel that have successfully gone through the checklist of plus factors include "lazytown," "Go, Diego, Go!" "Blue Room" and "The Wonder Pets."

### 'A Chinese Tall Story'

A COMIC update on a popular Chinese classic, "A Chinese Tall Story" is a big-budget production showcasing breathtaking sets, cutting-edge visual effects, and elaborate costumes. The film is about a young monk and his three disciples, who set out on an arduous task. Along the way, the monk's disciples are captured by a beast, the Root of All Evil. He tries to save them and encounters an ugly lizard-imp—who falls in love with him, and help him rescue his disciples desperately hoping the imp sets a trap for him, and he unwittingly falls into it! The movie is directed by **Jeff Lau**, whose acclaimed productions have won him an enviable place in Chinese filmmaking.

### Easter celebration

EASTER treats at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila include a special Easter Sunday adventure for kids from 12 noon to 3 p.m. today at the hotel's poolside area. It includes games, magic shows, face painting, a Mystery Egg Hunt, clowns and balloon twisting workshops. Call 245-1234.



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# Rendezvous in Cebu

CONCERT QUEEN POPS FERnandez and rumored beau, actor Jomari Yllana, were seen at the Shangri-la Hotel in Mactan, Cebu, in late March.

They dined in the hotel's restaurant and went swimming in its famous "infinity pool," said a source. They were with another woman who looked like Pops.

Jom and Pops have never admitted their relationship is romantic.

## Bye bye, love

Have "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity "housemate" Bianca Gonzales and TV director Lino Cayetano called it quits?

**RUSHES**

They were spotted at the Starbucks Café in Tagaytay City recently. An eyewitness said Bianca looked very sad.

During her stay inside the PBB house, Bianca admitted she was having doubts about Lino and that she was attracted to model Zanjoe Marudo, who was also a housemate.

## Who did that?

Who glammed up Ethel Booba against all odds? The comedian wore some fancy stuff in one edition of "Extra Challenge"—not so recent but, as it turns out, hard to banish from memory.

Believe it or not, she now has a "personal designer"—her friend, US-based Yani Santos, who made her two formal gowns for said program.

One month later, she did it again on two consecutive episodes of her new QTV 11 program "Show Ko!"

Yani is proud of his "model." She's a "natural," he says.

## Quality time

William Martinez and his pretty wife Yayo Aguila spent a recent Sunday afternoon with

POPS Fernandez

JENNYLYN Mercado

heart while shooting GMA Films "I Love New York" with intermittent boyfriend Mark Herras: *"Trabaho lang po."*

She was being interviewed at the time on "StarTalk." Effervescent host Lorna Tolentino tried so very hard to get a rise out of Jennylyn, to no avail.

## Shakira, humanitarian

Latin pop star Shakira has received an award for her humanitarian work: starting a charitable foundation, Barefoot, to help children in her native Colombia escape violence.

"Let's not forget that at the end of each day, 960 children will have died in Latin America," Shakira said after accepting her award from the nonprofit organization Women Together. *AP*

LINO Cayetano

their three kids—Patricia, Dana and Danielle—at the Gateway Mall in Quezon City. They were spotted at the mall's Food Court, chatting animatedly.

## What breakup?

Rushes was jolted with this question: "Is it true that Aga and Charlene are breaking up?"

Our reaction was ... what on earth ...?

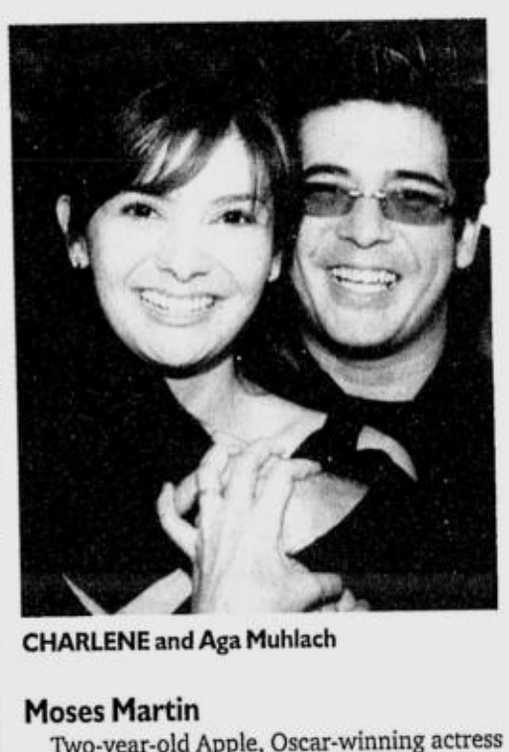
We asked around, anyway. Friends connected to a Jollibee campaign that has Aga as poster boy were bewildered.

"They just got back from the US, where Aga guested in the opening of more Jollibee outlets," they insisted.

Is that a conclusive answer? Readers, decide.

## 'Trabaho lang po'

Jennylyn Mercado on the condition of her



CHARLENE and Aga Muhlach

## Moses Martin

Two-year-old Apple, Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow's daughter by rock star husband Chris Martin, has a new brother. His name is Moses.

Their famous mom gave birth last week. Martin's Grammy-winning band Coldplay previously recorded a song called "Moses." *Reuters*

## Tell-all memoir

In Los Angeles, Hollywood superstar Jennifer Lopez has sued ex-husband Ojani Noa claiming he demanded $5 million to keep him from publishing an explosive tell-all book about the entertainer.

The lawsuit says Noa was "wrongfully attempting to exploit his prior relationship with (Lopez) by making salacious, inflammatory, invasive, disparaging statements."

In a word: bestseller.

GWYNETH Paltrow with her first baby. AP



ETHEL Booba

JENNIFER Lopezin a file photo with ex-husband Ojani Noa AP

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# Move over, Simon Cowell (yes, and Jon Stewart), Hugh Grant's here

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G

3 EIGHT BELOW
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
GP

4 SUBMERGED
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

LOS ANGELES—THANKS TO EVERYONE who got in touch regarding my first anniversary column (April 9). The outpouring of greetings inspires me.

* * *

"How do you dress like an asshole?"

**Hugh Grant** said he asked himself this question to portray a cruel English judge/host of a talent competition reality TV show in his new movie, "American Dreamz."

If you're thinking of **Simon Cowell**, stop right there. Hugh was the first to say that his character, Martin Tweed, had not been based on the mean judge of "American Idol." But in our recent press con with him, the actor did poke fun at Simon's famously un-hip high-waist paints.

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Ruben V. Nepales*

Hugh himself volunteered that **Paul Weitz** ("About a Boy," "In Good Company"), who wrote and directed what we consider to be the first funny movie of 2006, based the character on the actor's "miserable, pessimistic and self-loathing" self. Quotable, witty and smart, Hugh was hard to pin down for a press con. When the Oxford-educated Brit finally agreed to sit down for an interview, the silent rule was that we couldn't ask him personal questions. He even sniffed the bait in a cleverly disguised question, "How do you relate to strong women in general, like **Mandy Moore**'s character?" **Elizabeth Hurley**'s ex sensed it right away. "No, not general enough," he replied quickly and passed.

Hugh explained that his refusal to answer personal questions was because he had been misquoted many times in the past and that he had had to apologize to affected parties as a result. He is especially leery of the British press (most, if not all, were reportedly banned from this recent weekend of interviews held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York). But though he didn't talk about his girlfriend **Jemima Khan** (ex-wife of Pakistani former cricket star **Imran Khan** and daughter of the late French-British billionaire **James Goldsmith**), for example, Hugh still proved quotable on the topics he had been willing to discuss.

> 'I once nearly did celebrity wrestling with Colin Firth for charity. But Colin didn't want to do it; I think he was scared'

We were surprised to hear that "American Dreamz" was Hugh's first movie filmed in Hollywood. Asked about his stay in LA, he answered, "I was a little bit bored. I went for a few walks in those canyons amongst the dog mess." But the movie is anything but boring. Consider this comedy's blurb: "Imagine a country where the president never reads the newspaper; where the government goes to war for all the wrong reasons; and where more people vote for a pop idol than their next president."

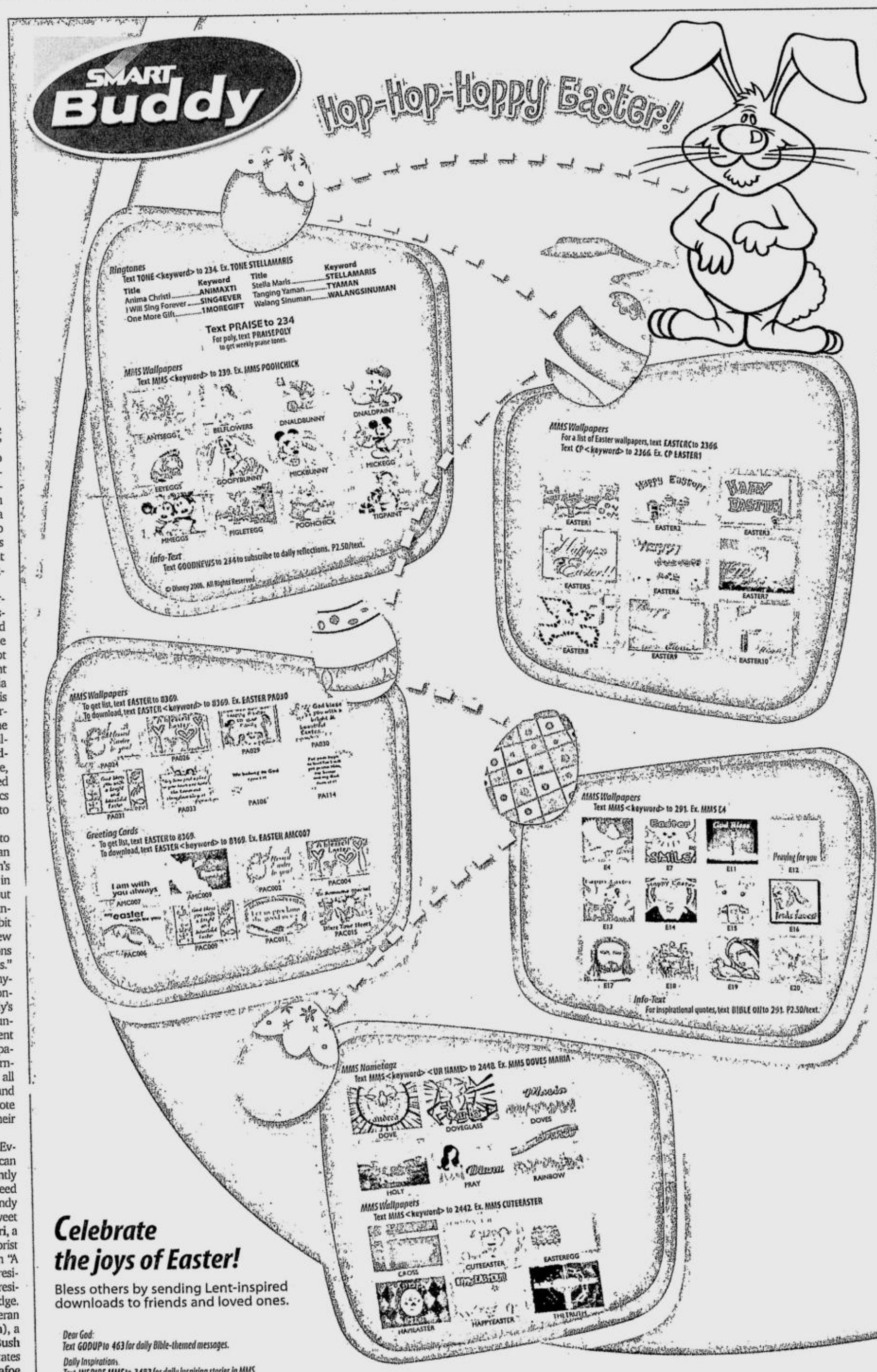
Sounds familiar? Everybody is perfectly cast in this satire of American pop culture and politics. In the show arrogantly hosted by the Ferrari-driving Martin Tweed (Hugh), the two top finalists are Sally (Mandy Moore, who is actually nasty beneath her sweet Southern girl exterior, and Omer (**Sam Golzari**, a wonderful find), a bumbling would-be terrorist who would rather break into a number from "A Chorus Line." No less than a buffoon of a US President (**Dennis Quaid**, comically channeling President **Bush**) will be the final show's special judge. Throw in Sally's dopey boyfriend, a war veteran even before he could see action (**Chris Klein**), a First Lady (**Marcia Gay Harden**, in **Laura Bush** haircut and suits) and a Chief of Staff who dictates every sound bite to the President (**Willem Dafoe** in **Dick Cheney** mode).

On "American Dreamz," Hugh's character wears terribly loud and annoying printed shirts.

**Do you watch "American Idol" or perhaps the English version, "Pop Idol"? Have you met Simon Cowell?**

I've never seen "American Idol." I've seen "Pop

MOVE/ A4-2



'I think Simon Cowell has a certain charisma ... even though his trousers are up to here, because he says what he thinks'

A JUDGE Tweed moment in "American Dreamz."

# Move over, Simon Cowell ...

From page A

Idol" once. I'm actually more of a "Wife Swap" [a reality TV show] guy. I've bumped into Simon Cowell at a party or two. He seems perfectly nice. But you know this part was never really based on him. Apart from the fact that I'm a cruel judge of a show that's uncannily like Simon's, the character is the work of Paul Weitz, really. The interesting part is that Paul says it's largely based on me. It's his impression of how miserable, pessimistic and self-loathing I am.

**How did you prepare yourself to become this obnoxious TV show host?**

The costume did a lot of that, actually. I thought, how do you dress like an asshole? it really helped once I got that. Then by mistake I got a bit fatter. I was actually trying to lose weight. I thought he should look really gaunt. And so I ate these health bars. I thought that if I ate nothing but health bars, I'll get thin. But I hadn't really read the packet properly. Actually these health bars have about five million calories each. Six weeks into the film, I was just massive (laughter). But I thought that sort of helped. I quite liked the fact that on the screen, I have this kind of jowly effect. So on the whole, my characters don't bleed over into real life. I'm the very opposite of method.

**Is this the first time that you are playing a character who is beyond redemption?**

I felt a glimmer of hope for Martin Tweed actually. I think that, in a way, he's in love with Sally. There's just a tiny thought that he might find redemption. But on the whole, I think not. In a way he is the product, the creation of trash television-mass media rubbish. Rather like if you feed someone rubbish food, they start to look and behave not really like a human. If you immerse yourself in the world of rubbish television, you end up as someone a bit like him. No soul.

**No matter what character you play, people still like you. Is that good or bad for you as an actor?**

If what you say is true—I'm not sure that it is necessarily true—it's probably not a terrible thing. It happens. It's a weird thing. People are perverse. In "Paradise Lost" (epic poem by **John Milton**), people liked Satan much more than they like any of the angels or God. People like a bastard. They gravitate toward them. I don't know why.

**Is it something in them?**

Yeah. Exactly. Also, because I think we're all terrified of saying what we think and doing what we really want to do, living out there in that dangerous area where characters like Martin Tweed live. But it's thrilling to watch. People become charismatic. I think Simon Cowell carries a certain charisma with him, even though his trousers are up to here, because he says what he thinks. Or he has a reputation for it. People are terrified of that and at the same time attracted.

**What was it like to drive a Ferrari?**

The drive was a little dull because the Ferrari's on a low loader. You're not actually driving it. It's sitting on four great big wheels and you're being towed by a truck. You're always thinking, "Go faster." This is supposed to be a Ferrari! And [it's not possible to] go fast enough because it makes the camera shake. They have a wind machine blowing your hair to make it look like you're going fast. It's pathetic.

**Have you driven a Ferrari in real life?**

Yeah. My great friend **Eric Fellner** (a movie producer) drives Ferraris. I'm an Aston Martin man. I prefer a British car. I admire Ferraris very much. But I think there's something suspicious about a 45-year-old in a Ferrari. I don't know what—just something creepy.

**While driving this Ferrari in the movie, your character reveals to Mandy's character that his mother told him she doesn't believe in him and that nobody likes him. What did your own mother tell you?**

My mother never said, "You have no talent and no one likes you." She was encouraging, [though] not particularly about acting. She never wanted me to be an actor. I think she was right. That's always my advice [when] I get letters and e-mails from friends and relations whose children have become teenagers and they're dying to go on the stage. They ask, what do we do, what drama schools and everything ... I feel terrible because my advice is always, "Don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs. Worthington. There are few rules in life; that's one of them. Don't do it. Even successful actors are miserable bastards."

**What did your mother want you to be?**

I think her dream was for me to be with the church. Or maybe something academic. I think she would like to see me in a tweed jacket with leather patches on the elbows, teaching somewhere.

**Mandy Moore's character would do anything to succeed. Can you understand that drive? Did it bring back memories of your beginnings?**

I don't remember being as nakedly ambitious as that. Maybe I was. I was always genuinely a bit reluctant to get further into the business. Mandy's character is the exact reverse. But it is interesting. One of the fun things about the film is to see that naked ambition in her character. What I love is when I meet other actors, particularly the really nice ones, and see how much bullshit is there. You know that really deep down, they're just as competitive, that they'd kill their grandmother to get the next part. So I think Mandy's character is very true.

**If you had a chance to meet the president of the United States, what would you tell him?**

I don't know where you'd start, really. It might be a good idea [to say] that God didn't choose

'On the whole don't bleed ov I'm the ver method

him, like Dennis Quaid's ch God chose him]. Because I t the scariest—that he thinks h

**Do you think political satir ple?**

I don't know ... the questio ever good, funny or accura preaching to the converted anyone's opinion in, for insta of this country? To be hone probably wouldn't. But I thin sorts of taboos.

**What do you think of the politics?**

I suppose I'm as alarmed media. I don't live here in An the impression that our gove the voters but by the media. Blair, you can be prime min course, that is alarming.

**Where do you think is the w**

My hope is that it's going some big bang. I don't quite always hope, and my fantas sion forever and all media. W ing to read books, instead of

**How do you think people going react to this movie?**

I think people around the may respond better outside It's interesting. Some of the celebrity culture, trash televi has become more important countries. Things often start country. People are more im in politics. No question about

**What do you think about r say about the culture we liv**

I sort of saw it coming ac "I'm enjoying documentaries kind of drama." Real people fictional people. Even the be as fabulous as the women o TV, particularly the good stu step further and bring in all ceptible to and I am slightly (German for happiness in th cruelty and someone else's h element as well. It's not far o seeing the bearded lady or th

**If producers came up to yo reality show, what would y**

Oh, the Hugh Grant reali one. I once nearly did celeb charity. Richard Curtis, wh wanted us to do something. want to do it. Yeah, I think he

**Why are you fascinated wit self would rather have peo**

What I'm saying is that I d tible to them just as much as alds or Krispy Kreme donuts but I love them. I'm just adm said that, I think that there blend into quite interesting vised drama. There's a gray not that far away from a g Because Mike Leigh's techni and become them. Maybe i meet in the news. I just thi they're created by Mike Leig filmed by a fly on the wall ca you look at a great document ever see that? It's by Michael to be higher art, more inter affirming than anything wri

**You were away for sonletin**

I felt that I needed a bit o led my fancy, acting-wise fo

If Rupert Murdoch says yes, Tony Blair, you can be prime minister, then he's prime minister. That's alarming.

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AINMENT

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**s like this film can change peo-**

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k it is very healthy to laugh at all

**ncreasing power of media on**

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Rupert Murdoch says yes, Tony
ster, then he's prime minister. Of

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ward a knockdown. That there's
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is that, it will explode all televi-
'll be back to people actually hav-
ust being media morons.

**utside of the United States are**

world will respond [well]. They
America than here. I don't know.
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rested in "Pop Idol" for sure than
hat.

**ality TV shows? What do they**
**in?**

ually. A few years ago, I thought,
nuch more than I'm enjoying any
re always more interesting than
dramatists can't create anything
"Wife Swap." I quite like reality
f. Shows like "Pop Idol" take it a
inds of other things that I'm sus-
ashamed of. Like *shadenfreuder*
misery of others) and enjoying
miliation. There is the freak show
from going to the fairground and
two-headed child.

**and said, let's do a Hugh Grant**
**u say?**

v show—I think I can resist that
ty wrestling with Colin Firth for
puts together "Comic Relief,"
hat was my idea but Colin didn't
was scared.

**n reality shows when you your-**
**le read books instead?**

n't really approve but I'm suscep-
nyone else. It's a bit like McDon-
I don't think they're good for you,
tting to my own frailties. Having
an area where reality TV does
ocumentary, or even into impro-
rea. I would say "Wife Swap" is
d Mike Leigh improvised script.
e is; the actors takes real persons
their neighbor or someone they
that those real people, whether
's actors or whether they're being
era, are to me very interesting. If
ry series like "Seven Up," did you
pted. That to me is always going
ung, more fascinating, more life
n by any top BBC dramatist.

**e. What did you do?**

break. Nothing particularly tick-
long time. I never did write my script. I played a lot of golf. I went on some holidays. I got a bit bored. Then Paul's script came up. I thought it was really funny. We share a kind of sensibility. I like the fact that he's a warped, twisted individual. The script was full of that sensibility. I thought it would be fun to go to LA for a month and do a film with him.

**So what tickles your fancy?**

As I've always said, it has to work on the page, whatever genre it might be. Just as long as I think it works, if I want to turn the page, it's interesting to me. If it's comedy, that it actually makes me laugh. These things are incredibly rare. I get sent a lot of scripts and usually, I'm so bored by page 10 that I'm going to stab myself.

**Do you use humor in your arguments or confrontations with someone who is close to you?**

I wouldn't say that I use humor. I could use bitter sarcasm.

**But don't you find that you are more effective when you say something with humor?**

On the whole the point that you're making, that people who want to make serious points do make them better with a good joke, it is definitely true. I go to quite a few debates in London. The best speakers, the people who always win, are not the ones who make the best points, but the people who do it with the best humor.

**How do you look to the future?**

I don't. Maybe that's the problem. I'm always thinking, "I'm about to decide what I really want to do and where my direction is." But I just continue to drift. I shall probably drift into my grave like that.

**What do you really like to do?**

That's a good question. I often ask myself that question. I do like to be creative. If you could force yourself to or someone else forces you to, that feeling where you've done it, you've produced something, is good. I remember that last time I felt really happy was when I was doing that comedy show way back. You know the feeling of satisfaction, we did it, it really works, it's a big success. That's the biggest high I can remember in life.

**So why do you discourage people from putting their children on the stage?**

Because I'm not sure that acting is necessarily that creative. You're going to be saying someone else's lines—probably not that often—unless you're really successful. You'll be struggling, waiting for the job. And it will come along—it will be two lines in a toothpaste commercial. It's hard to call that really creative. Unless you're right at the top or improvising some play.

'I get sent a lot of scripts and usually, I'm so bored by page 10 that I'm going to stab myself'

**For someone as media shy as you, I am surprised that you still live in tabloid-crazy London. Do you dream about living somewhere else?**

I do sometimes fantasize about living somewhere else. I have a strange desire to live in Paris. Yes. Dangerous city now. But I do find that I'm automatically happy the moment I land in Paris, Rome and quite a few European cities, in a way that I'm not when I land in London.

**Do you believe that entertainers should not speak about politics?**

I think you can if you feel very strongly. I am slightly reluctant to, simply because I'm only half joking when I say I change my opinions all the time. I really do change them quite a lot of the time. I find that if someone makes a good case to me for one point, I'll think, "Yes, you're absolutely right." And then if someone in the same debate makes a really good point completely contrary to that, I'll think, "No, *you* are right. I've never understood people who can be so convinced of one particular view that they can hold it throughout their lives without ever wavering. I waver all the time. That's really why I'm reluctant to talk politics. I don't mind if other people want to do it. It's slightly unattractive when you see actors preaching.

**There is a lot of subjects you don't want to discuss. Surely there must be one subject which you would very much like to talk about.**

I'm sorry to be a bit of a clam today. But it's from years of experience. I just can't be bothered with the backlash. By the time my answers have been filtered through various different media, misquoted 16 times, I'm going to have to unstitch it, and apologize to people or explain it away. Or in the British press, it's used as a club to hit me over the head with. I'd just rather not go into those areas. I also feel that after these years, I suddenly feel that I want my privacy back a bit. I don't want to say anything at all about my own private life. I don't think it's got anything to do with the film. I understand the interest. If I was watching an interview with an actor, I wouldn't want to know about their film or his acting technique. I'd want to know who they were shagging.

**So who are you shagging?**

(Laughter all around—led by Hugh.)

*(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)*

## P.S.: More feedback

**From John Henares (John.Henares@genworth.com):**

I just want to congratulate you on this column's first anniversary.

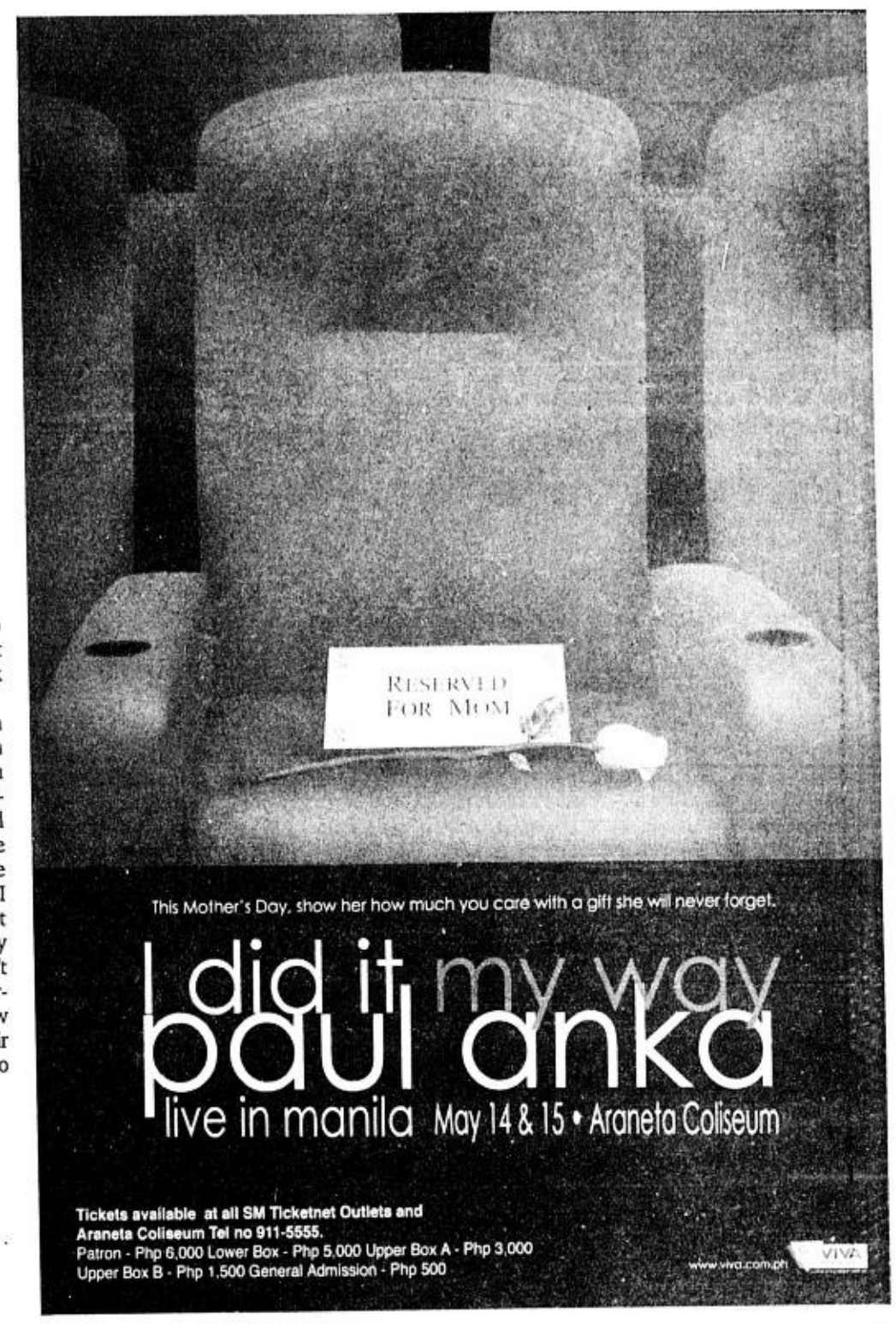
Your wonderful INQUIRER article about Joseph's "Jeopardy!" adventure (that also featured the rest of our family) has become a family treasure, and surely will become one of our most-valued mementos for years to come.

Already, I have visions of future generations of our reading that write-up and feeling just as proud as we are. We are extremely grateful to you.—John, Jean, and kids

**From "Jong" (jong_saudi@yahoo.com):**

I'm an OFW here in Riyadh, I always read your column on www.inq7.net.

Just to let you know that we deeply appreciate your work. It keeps us informed about the latest in Hollywood, especially fellow Pinoys who make it big there.



'I think there's something creepy about a 45-year-old driving a Ferrari'

WITH "contestants," including Mandy Moore, left.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

# Two thumbs up!

"EIGHT Below" has proven to be a perfect acting venue for the exceptionally trained dogs.

## A solid tale of survival

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—THERE WAS A great nature and survival film to be had in "Eight Below," the story of sled dogs struggling to stay alive in Antarctica after their two-legged overseers leave them behind during a killer storm.

All it needed was more face time with the canines and less with the humans.

As it is, "Eight Below" is a solidly entertaining tale of endurance and companionship that offers some glorious snowy vistas, a good dose of action and eight very cool-looking quadrupeds.

The filmmakers felt they needed a strong bipedal presence, so we're forced to sit through a lot of bland human interaction interspersed with the far more rousing, dramatic and, honestly, better-performed sequences with the dogs.

Animal acts can stand on their own. The 2004 tiger tail "Two Brothers" and 1989's "The Bear," both from director Jean-Jacques Annaud, told captivating dramas from the animals' perspectives, with minimal human interference.

In "Eight," director Frank Marshall ("Alive," "Arachnophobia") and first-time screenwriter David DiGilio fall back on a framing story centered on the dogs' handler, Antarctic guide Jerry Shepard (Paul Walker), who has forged such a bond with his team that he cannot live with himself after a hasty evacuation leaves the animals stranded.

"Inspired" by a 1983 Japanese film that was based on a real-life dog survival story from the 1950s, "Eight Below" updates the tale to 1993, the last year sled dogs were allowed to work in Antarctica because of the risk they could transmit distemper to seals.

Jerry and his team of grand furballs are assigned to help a researcher (Bruce Greenwood) hunt for meteorites. The dogs' sturdy heroism allows both men to return to base after a near-deadly accident, but with the storm of the century forcing research teams to beat their retreat from Antarctica, the dogs are abandoned.

Winter closes in, and Jerry and ex-girlfriend Katie (Moon Bloodgood), a perky pilot, are unable to go back and fetch the dogs who, like any good ensemble of actors, heartily embody a band of souls at odds with one another but learning to work together for mutual survival.

### Regal presences

The dogs are regal presences well suited to the majestic landscapes captured by cinematographer Don Burgess. Idiosyncrasies of personality shine through among the dogs, especially in established leader Maya and up-and-coming alpha male Max.

It's easy to anthropomorphize animals and assign human motivations to the basic instincts they act on to stay alive. But this is a Disney film, so you're supposed to identify with the dogs as something more than dumb beasts.

And some of their actions—mournful looks of resignation, moments of self-sacrifice, grieving growls over an injured comrade—will melt the iciest heart.

On the other hand, the humans are on a tight leash, their characters pleasantly shallow, their exchanges largely limited to lamentations over the dogs and repetitive backslapping reunion scenes.

Jason Biggs of the "American Pie" flicks is on hand for comic relief as the team's slaphappy cartographer, but his goofy antics are not funny and just make you long for more time with the dogs.

This is the sort of film that prompts families to unwisely adopt the breeds of adorable animal their kids fall in love with onscreen, only to dump them at shelters when the persnickety problem pets turn out to be too much of a hassle.

Presumably, the size and strength of the heroes of "Eight Below" will result in less of a run on purebred huskies and malamutes than, say, "101 Dalmatians" caused for spotted dogs. *David Germain, AP*

## Take some cool canine cunning

**By Oliver M. Pulumbarit**
*Contributor*

ONE NEEDN'T BE AN ANIMAL lover to appreciate Disney's "Eight Below," a resonantly wholesome drama about the plight of eight huskies abandoned in the frozen wastelands of Antarctica. Based on the 1983 Japanese film "Nankyoku Monogatari" ("Antarctica"), this new version is a rewarding—if Disney-fied—story about survival, as well as a fervent look at the inspiring bond between man and beast. It feels like an Animal Planet or National Geographic documentary that's been merged with a slickly filmed TV-movie of the week, but it works rather smoothly.

Set in 1993, "Eight Below" illustrates how several sled dogs might have subsisted after being abandoned by their owner-trainer, survival guide Jerry Shepard (Paul Walker), who was forced to leave in an emergency evacuation. But the lack of expedition funding and harsh weather conditions prevent Jerry from going back and rescuing his eight dogs, which, unbeknownst to him, were forced to adapt in the unforgiving polar environment for months. The pack, prior to being stranded, has contributed greatly to the endeavors of a small scientific team, especially to a new arrival's, the meteorite-hunting geologist Davis (Bruce Greenwood).

It's a simple, clearly told pet drama that some really young kids may find a little intense in certain parts. The domesticated animals are depicted as being able to transform into hunters and scavengers as well as a tightly knit group with an evolving hierarchy when left without human supervision. Sure, they're cute and cuddly, but they can be cunning, too.

### 'Actor dogs'

With fine editing and exceptional animal training, they really show "acting" chops. From carefully staging a bird-hunting attack, to the quiet gestures shared between them, these dogs really are convincing. Not that the human cast is forgettable, but the mutts are the real stars of the movie. Behind the scenes, the "actor dogs" were trained to do elaborate, communicative gestures, and do phys-

TWO/ A2-2

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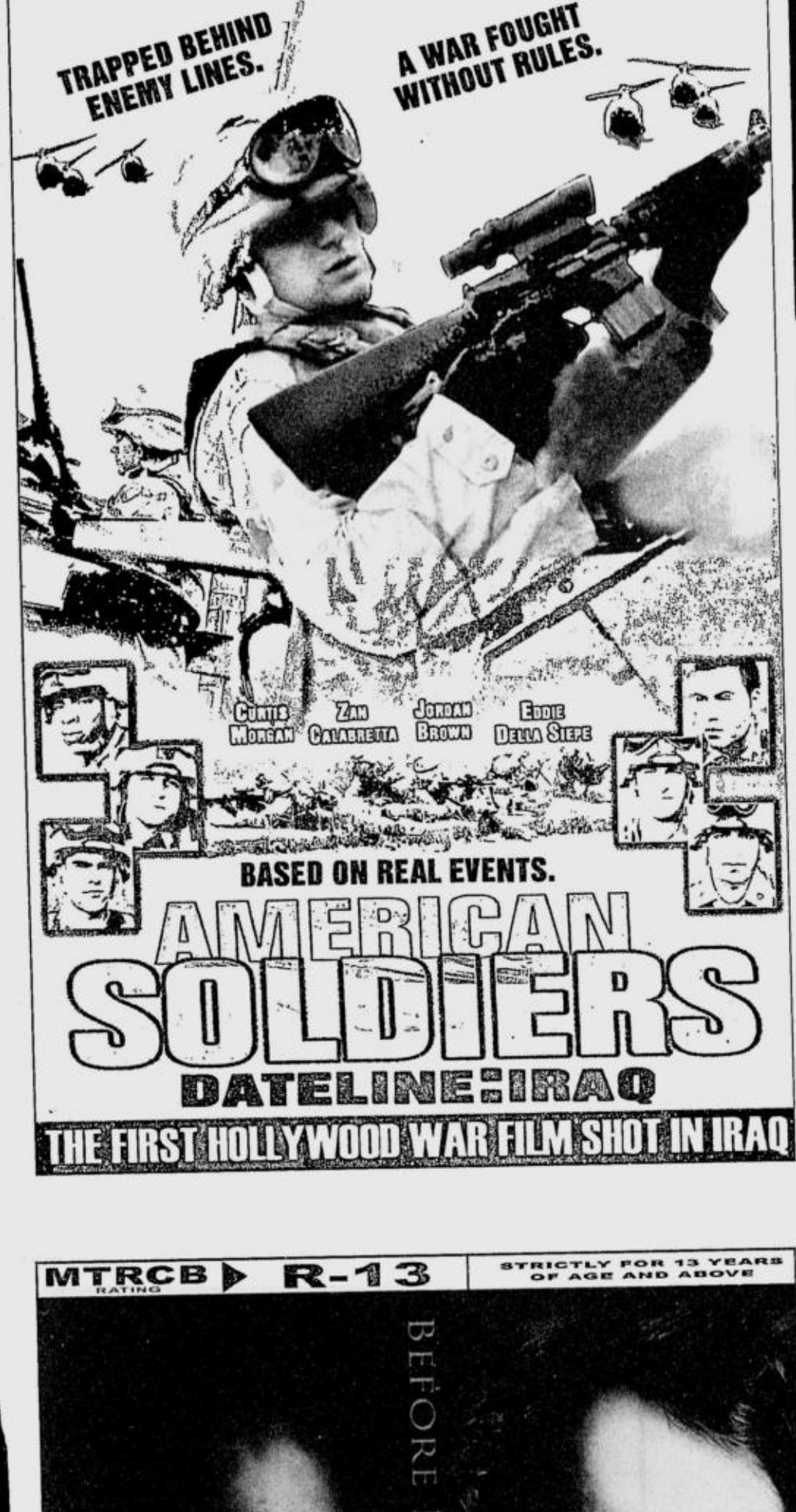

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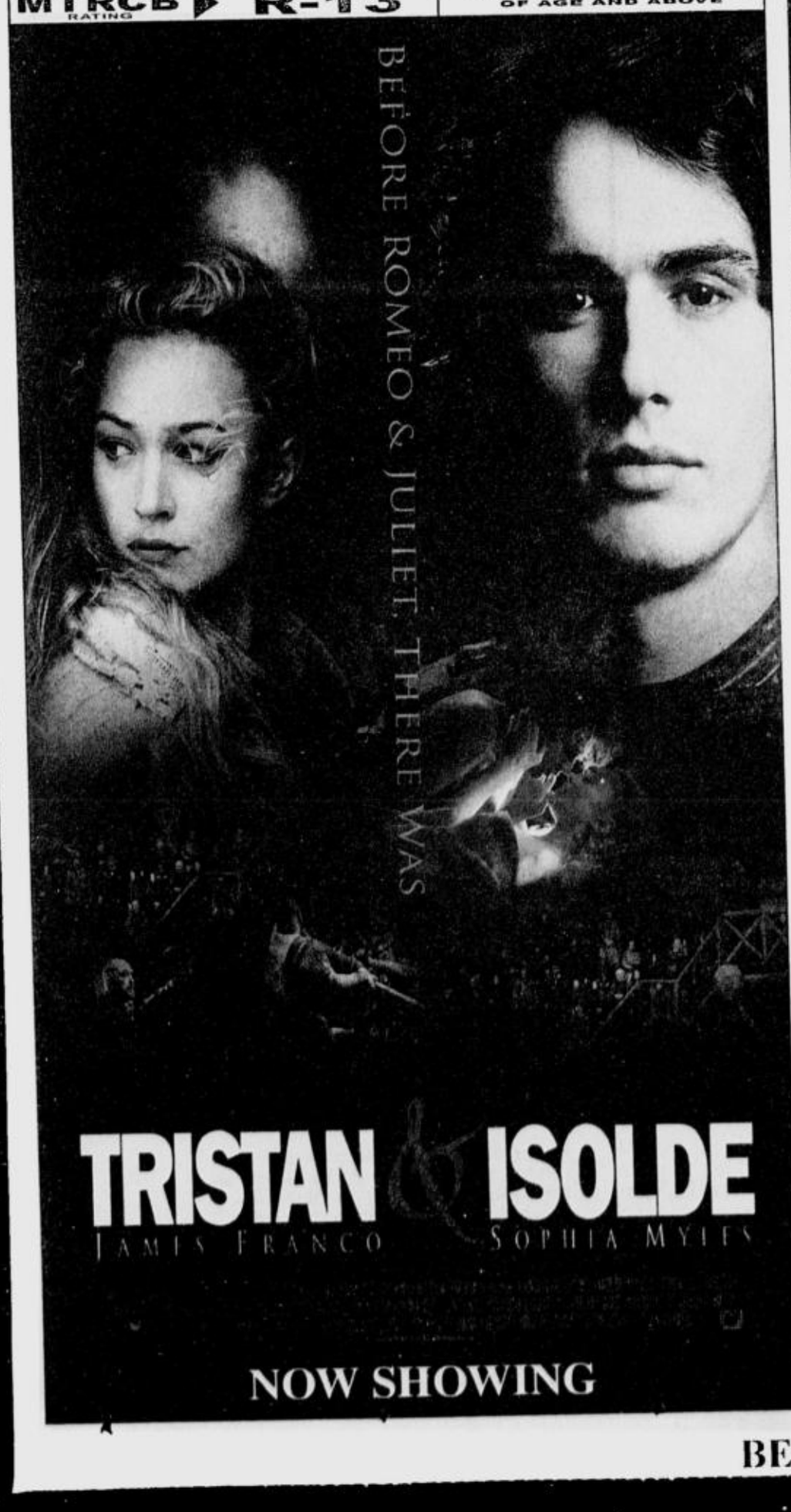


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12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45

3 BASIC INSTINCT 2
MTRCB. R-18
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF

4 JUST FRIENDS
MTRCB R-13 11:40, 4:20, 9:00
NANNY MCPHEE
MTRCB. GP 2:00, 6:40

PREMIERE THEATRE | VENOM
MTRCB R-13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

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Shangri-La Plaza


## SHOW TIME

### 'Winston in Concert' presents The Dawn and True Faith on April 21

ON MAY 5 AND 6, LOCAL SHOW two top all-girl groups—The Sh and The Viva Hot Babes—go back in "Versus," a dance showd the Music Museum.

The show is woven around ing" theme and goes throu rounds of colorful productior bers, including a cowboy-i number, a Geisha suite and dance, according to Calvin Ne rector.

The Showgirls is composed o Miller, Cherry Lou, Gem Ramos al Tolentino and Desiree del Val Viva Hot Babes are Andrea del R Gwen Garci, Myles Hernandez Cabrera and Katya Santos.

Call 721-0635, 721-6726 o 9999.

### Kuh-Bobby Soul repeat

HOTBABE A del Rosario

"The Music of the Platters and More," starring Kuh Ledesma and Bobby Soul, will have a repeat on April 22 at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Call 721-6726 or 750-8888.

### Today

Imago at Metropolis Star Alabang; 6 p.m.

### Tomorrow

Michael Terry at RJ Guita Jupiter St., Makati

Strings of Soul and Michael at Tavern on the Square, Green

### April 18

Strings of Soul and MYMP at on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Aretha the Soul Band at M

### April 19

Moonstr RJ Guita Jupiter Makati

Dimsu Tavern Square, belt 3

### April 20

Abrakad RJ Guita Jupiter Makati

Mocha Tavern on the Square, Greenbe

Acoustic Jive at Merk's

HOTBABE KATYA Santos

### April 21

Winston in Concert featuring True Faith and The Dawn at Party Place in San Fernando, Pampanga

RJ 'n Friends with the Members Band at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

9th Avenue at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

### April 22

True Faith and The Dawn at Cal Jam in Olongapo City

KUH Ledesma and Bobby Soul

# MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

## MOVIE GUIDE

### NOW SHOWING

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY | ICE AGE 2 GP |
| 2 | DOLBY | ICE AGE 2 GP |
| 3 | DOLBY | BASIC INSTINCT 2 R18 |
| 4 | DOLBY | JUST FRIENDS R13 |
| | | NANNY MCPHEE GP |
| PREMIERE | | |
| | DOLBY | VENOM R13 |

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY | AMERICAN SOLDIERS |
| 2 | SDDS | BASIC INSTINCT 2 |
| 3 | DTS | ICE AGE 2 |
| 4 | GOLD DTS | TRISTAN & ISOLDE |
| 5 | GOLD DOLBY | SUBMERGED |
| 6 | GOLD SDDS | EIGHT BELOW |
| 7 | GOLD DOLBY | NANNY MCPHEE |
| 8 | DOLBY | MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| 9 | DOLBY | THE HILLS HAVE EYES |
| 10 | DOLBY | D' LUCKY ONES |

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY | TRISTAN & ISOLDE |
| 2 | DOLBY | ICE AGE 2 |
| 3 | DOLBY | EIGHT BELOW |
| 4 | DOLBY | SUBMERGED |

**CINEMA 2000**
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 2 | DTS | MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| 3 | DOLBY | EIGHT BELOW |
| 4 | | ICE AGE 2 |

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall** (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 2 | DOLBY | EIGHT BELOW |
| 3 | DTS | BASIC INSTINCT |
| 4 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix** (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | ULTRAVIOLET |
| 2 | | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 3 | DOLBY | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown** (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | ICE AGE 2 |
| 2 | | ULTRAVIOLET |
| 3 | DOLBY | MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| 4 | SDDS | D' LUCKY ONES |

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart** (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

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| 1 | | ICE AGE-2 |
| 2 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| 3 | DOLBY | D' LUCKY ONES |

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart** (Gapan)

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| 1 | | NANNY MC PHEE |
| 2 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

**Lianas Cinema** (Pasig) tel 640.4748

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| 1 | | LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN |
| 2 | | ICE AGE 2 |

**Lianas Cinema** (Alabang) tel 850.1276

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| 1 | SDDS | JUST FRIENDS |
| 2 | | MURDER |
| 3 | | BASIC INSTINCT 2 |
| 4 | DTS | |

**Lianas MovieCity** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

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| 1 | DOLBY | EIGHT BELOW |
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| 3 | DTS | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 4 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| 5 | | ULTRAVIOLET |

**Fiesta World Mall** (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | EIGHT BELOW |
| 2 | | BIG MOMMAS HOUSE 2 |
| 3 | | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 4 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

**Berma Cinema** (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | MURDER |
| 2 | | BANDIDAS |

**CINEMA 2000**
**Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati**
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | EIGHT BELOW |
| 2 | | TRISTAN & ISOLDE |
| 3 | | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 4 | | ICE AGE 2 |

**Blue Wave** MAKATI
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY | EIGHT BELOW |
| 2 | DOLBY | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 3 | DOLBY | ICE AGE 2 |
| 4 | DOLBY | TRISTAN & ISOLDE |

**SUPER CINERAMA**
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY | TRISTAN & ISOLDE |
| 2 | | SUBMERGED |
| 3 | | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 4 | | EIGHT BELOW |
| 5 | | AMERICAN SOLDIERS |

**st rmall** EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

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|---|---|---|
| 3 | | AMERICAN SOLDIERS |
| 4 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | EIGHT BELOW |
| 5 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

**metropolis star cinema**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| 2 | | VENOM |
| 3 | | EIGHT BELOW |
| 4 | | D' LUCKY ONES |

**THEATRES**
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3028

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | NANNY MCPHEE |
| 2 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| 3 | | D' LUCKY ONES |

**PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC**
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 000-5271

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| ★ | | D' LUCKY ONES |
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**Masagana CINEMA**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

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| 1 | | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 2 | | BANDIDAS |
| 3 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

**Center Mall Cinema**
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | EIGHT BELOW |
| 2 | | NANNY MCPHEE |

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY EX | EIGHT BELOW |
| 2 | | TRISTAN & ISOLDE |
| 3 | DTS EX | D' LUCKY ONES |
| 4 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

**Centre Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | ICE AGE 2 |
| 2 | | MOMENTS OF LOVE |

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE


## Two thumbs up!

From page A2-1

ically demanding chores (when not replaced by canine stunt doubles).

Their human co-stars play appropriately squeaky clean roles, but there's still some post-cognitive familiarity. Walker, for instance, feels like the sporty stud from "The Fast and the Furious" (minus the daredevil attitude), while grinning Jason Biggs, as cartographer Cooper, still has the goofy personality from "American Pie" (minus the you-know-what). But it doesn't matter; they blend in well and add warmth to the unusual ensemble dynamic.

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SHOWGIRL Desiree del Valle

Kamikazee at Starmall Edsa; 4 p.m.

Mr. God and Company at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

Tribe of Levi at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Flintstones and the Gang at Merk's

### April 23

Katrina Halili at Metropolis Star Alabang; 4 p.m.

AiAi Delas Alas' Maggi Magic Sarap Palengke Tour at Naga Public Market

### April 24

Michael Terry at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

Strings of Soul and Michaelangelo at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

### April 25

Michael Terry at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

Brown Republic at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's

### April 26

Moonstrucks at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

Dimsum at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

### April 27

Abrakadabra at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

Mocha at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

### April 28

Kim Flores at the Ynares Center in Antipolo

Nyoy Volante at Metropolis Star Alabang; 7 p.m.

RJ 'n Friends with the Members Band at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

9th Avenue at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Acoustic Jive at Merk's

### April 29

Kim Flores at the Mr. Golf Driving Range in Pampanga

Mr. God and Company at RJ Guitar Bar, Jupiter St., Makati

Nyoy Volante at Cuba Libre Latin Bar, Starmall Edsa; 9 p.m.

KIM Flores

Tribe of Levi at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Flintstones and the Gang at Merk's

### April 30

Douglas Nierras Powerdance in "Powerdancing in the Dark" at the Meralco Theater

Sham-rock at Metropolis Star Alabang; 5 p.m.

AiAi Delas Alas' Maggi Magic Sarap Palengke Tour at La Paz Public Market and Jaro Plaza, Iloilo

### May 1

MYMP

Douglas Nierras Powerdance in "Powerdancing in the Dark" at the Meralco Theater

### May 4

Mon David, Nolyn Cabahug and Cynthia Alexander join UK-based Antonio Forcione in a concert at Crossroad 77 Convention Center, Mother Ignacia St., QC

### May 12

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

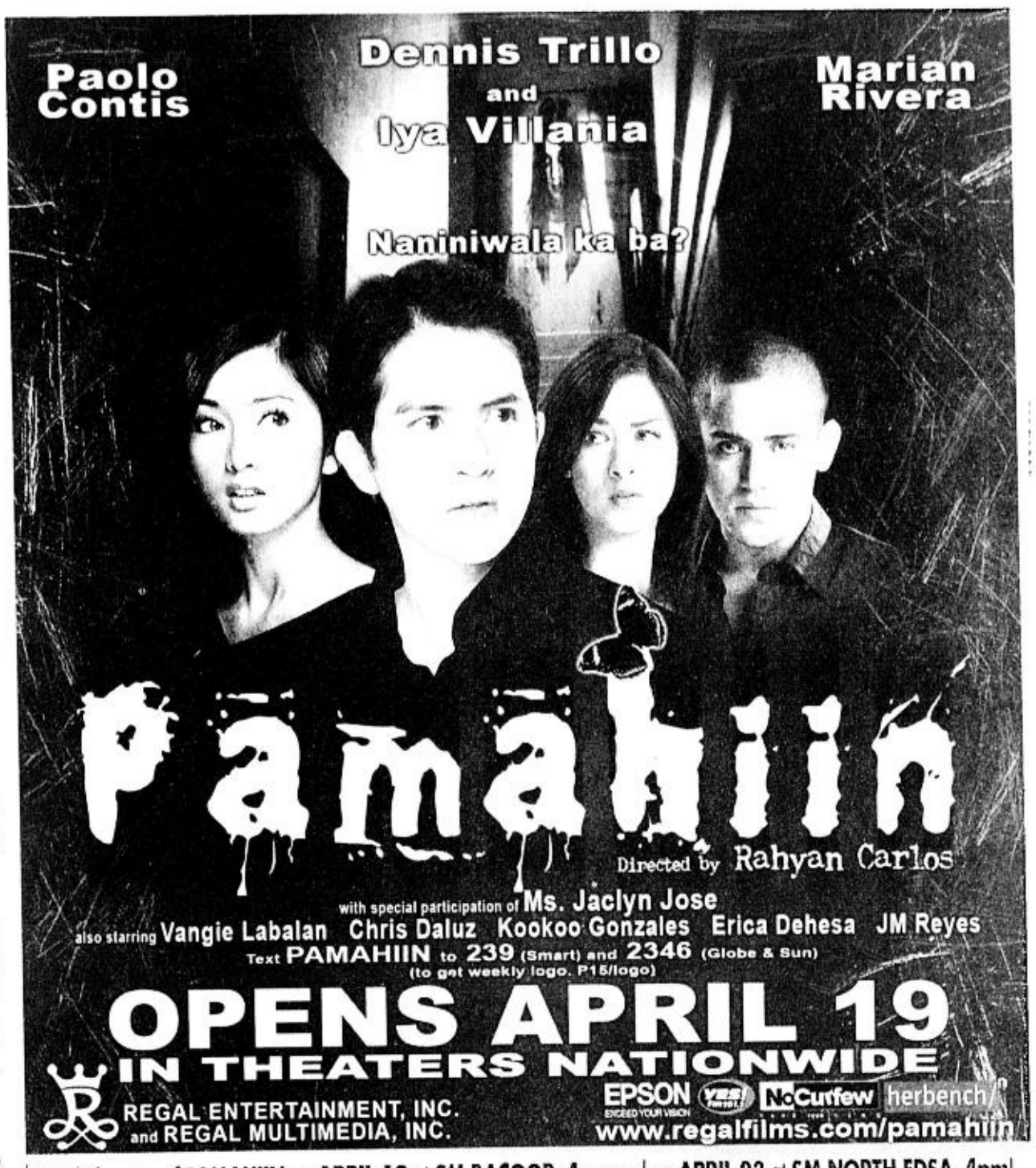
### May 13

Kim Flores at South Koronadal Gym in Marbel City

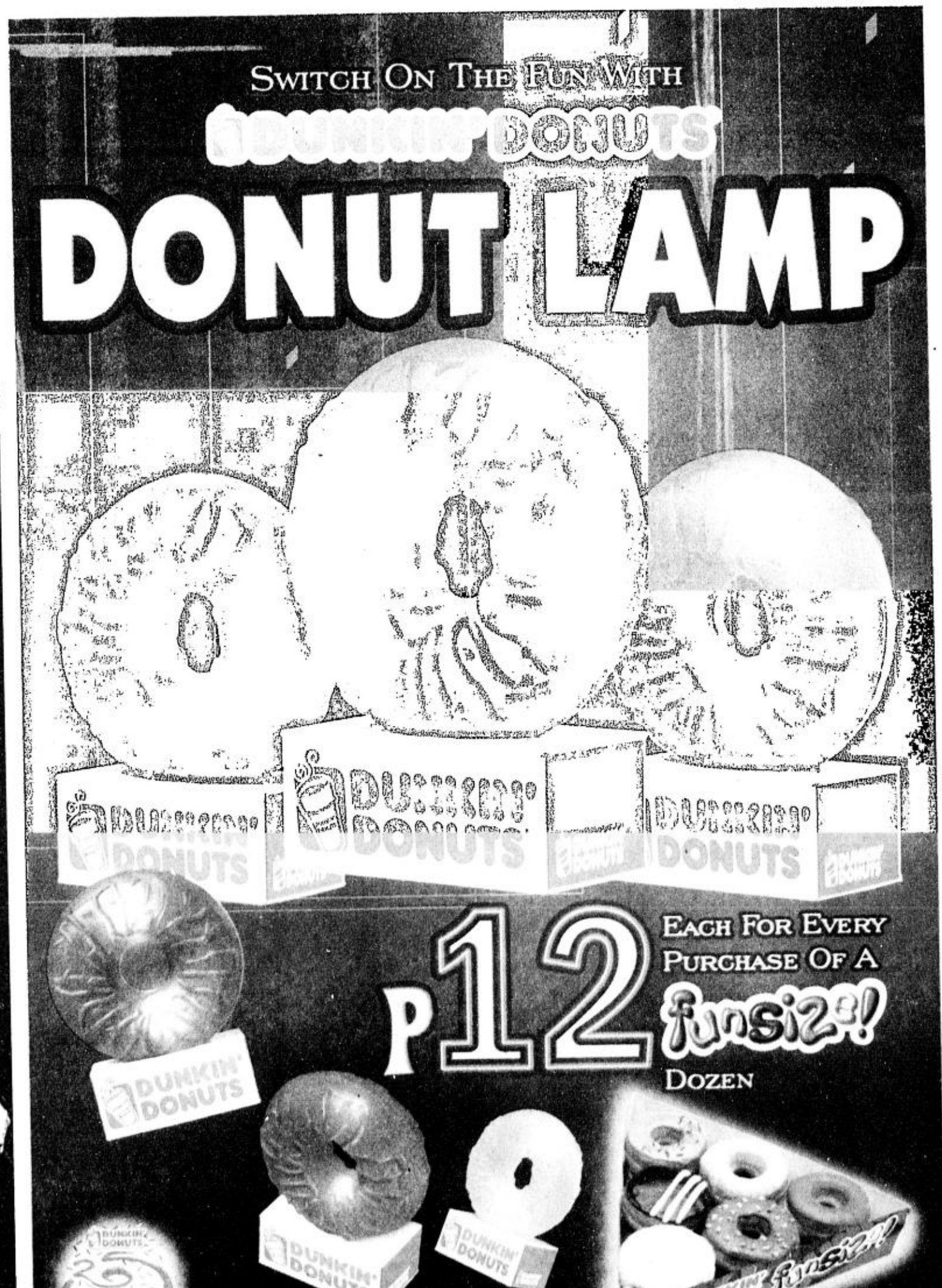
### May 20

Kim Flores at the La Salle Gym in Bacolod

THE DAWN




Catch the stars of PAMAHIIN on APRIL 19 at SM BACOOR, 4pm and on APRIL 23 at SM NORTH EDSA, 4pm!
Premiere Night: April 17 Cinema 1 SM Megamall 7pm



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# Shirley MacLaine on Nicole, Jennifer—and the casting couch

LOS ANGELES—SHE RAN WITH THE RAT PACK, made her film debut in a movie directed by Alfred Hitchcock and won an Oscar. But Shirley MacLaine says one thing she never did was sleep with anyone to get a job.

"You know I've never had a casting couch proposition in my life. I thought there was something wrong with me. Men always know if you're going to laugh at them, which I would if they did," she said in a recent interview. She added: "It's nice not to have a career that's based on being a sex object anyway. When I was 20, I saw myself as a character actor and I still do now."

With a career now in its sixth decade, an Oscar for Best Actress in 1983's "Terms of Endearment," 10 best-selling books and a reputation as one of Hollywood's sharper wits, MacLaine has earned her icon status.

But at 71, Warren Beatty's older sister has also become surprisingly a hot Hollywood actor. If you need a grandmother, just call.

She won rave reviews playing granny to Cameron Diaz and Toni Collette in the melodrama "In Her Shoes" and co-stars with Jennifer Aniston in "Rumor Has It," also as a grandmother. She likewise appeared with Nicole Kidman in the summer box office bomb "Bewitched."

The experience has given MacLaine a unique insight in today's modern stars. They are not a curious lot. Or at least, none of the above named stars were much interested in MacLaine's past life as a superstar.

"Cameron used to spend the first hour of the rehearsal period talking about the problems she had getting out of her house and avoiding the photographers outside," MacLaine said.

"Nicole Kidman, who I adore, asked me questions about longevity when we made 'Bewitched' but nothing else about the business. Jennifer Aniston and I ... talked a lot of human emotion and truth since her problems with her husband (actor Brad Pitt) were then surfacing in the press but she never asked me about the business either.

"When we made 'In Her Shoes' our rehearsal stage was where my dressing room was when I made 'The Children's Hour,' 'Two For The Seasaw,' 'Irma La Douce' and 'The Apartment.' I would have been happy to share my experiences on those films alone, but Cameron and Toni never asked me anything off-camera."

## Advice, please

But had they asked, what would she have told them?

Apparently: "Don't screw up like I did."

"I would have given them an example of one of my own biggest mistakes. I regret turning down the lead role in 'Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore,' which Ellen Burstyn deservedly won an Oscar for. "I said to myself, 'Who is this (director) Martin Scorsese person? Why should I see this little film about 'Mean Streets'? It was a terrible, terrible mistake on my part. I didn't do my homework. I didn't see his movies. And it was an excellent role for me. Never get in a comfort zone where you're not open to new ideas and filmmakers with passion for their projects!"

**"DON'T screw up like I did."**

As an actress, MacLaine so avoids the comfort zone that Curtis Hanson, director of "In Her Shoes" compared her to Russell Crowe, who worked for him in "L.A. Confidential."

"Shirley's his female counterpart. They're wild horses knocking against a fence post, trying to push and see how far their work can take them. I think being challenged as an actress keeps Shirley young," Hanson said recently.

Be that as it may, MacLaine says she doesn't feel like part of today's Hollywood and her fondest memories are of times when she hung out with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, Jack Lemmon and Clint Eastwood, whom she calls her favorite Republican director.

"Every once in awhile I wake up and see my former life here and it's fascinating to be this old and this experienced after so many decades of changes," she said.

"When I started, women like Joan Crawford, Bette Davis, Susan Hayward and Lana Turner ruled the industry. Julie Andrews and myself were the last women out of the studio star system. When studios stopped having actors, particularly women, under contract, they ceased to develop scripts for them and the entire industry changed almost overnight," she added.

"I think Hollywood is making a big mistake not making films for people over 50. Young people are fickle. They'll stay home and play video games or go out and party instead of going to the movies on a regular basis unless they're dating someone."

*Craig Modderno, Reuters*

The feisty veteran says she'd be happy to share her stories with co-stars but they hardly ever seem interested

## ROUNDUP

### Goldie in India

BOMBAY—HOLLYWOOD STAR GOLDIE Hawn plans to make a movie set in India titled "Ashes to Ashes," a newspaper reported Monday.

Hawn told Bombay-based DNA newspaper she had written a comedy about a New Yorker who travels to India to bury her husband's ashes. She planned to act in and direct the comedy, she said.

"Though she loses the ashes on the way, the film is about the meaningful lessons she finds instead," said Hawn, 60, a frequent traveler to the Indian subcontinent.

The actress, who is in India on a private visit, said her partner Kurt Russell would be her co-star. *AP*

### Gina in indie

Multi-awarded actress Gina Alajar is appearing in the independent film, "Batad: Sa Paang Palay." The movie is one of the 10 finalists in the full-length feature category of the 2006 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition.

GINA Alajar

"Batad," by Benji Garcia and Vic Acedillo, is currently in production and tells the tale of a teenage Ifugao boy who dreams of owning a pair of rubber shoes.

Cinemalaya 2006 will be held in July at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

### Gay awards

LOS ANGELES—Charlize Theron was honored with a top prize from the country's leading gay organization that monitors the media.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation presented its Vanguard Award to Theron at the recent 17th Annual Glaad Media Awards for increasing "visibility and understanding in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community."

"This is very surreal for me," Theron said in ceremonies at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood. "Two years ago, I stood right here and won my Oscar for 'Monster.'"

Other Glaad winners included Felicity Huffman's transsexual road trip "Transamerica" for Outstanding Film in Limited Release and NBC's "Will & Grace" for Outstanding Comedy Series. *AP*


glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Loveamall

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 D' LUCKY ONES | 2 EIGHT BELOW | 3 SUBMERGED | 4 MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 D' LUCKY ONES | 2 AMERICAN SOLDIERS | 3 THX TRISTAN & ISOLDE 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 JUST FRIENDS | 5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | 6 EIGHT BELOW | 7 SUBMERGED |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 EIGHT BELOW | | 2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX RENT 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS | | 2 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 EIGHT BELOW 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 TRISTAN & ISOLDE 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX EIGHT BELOW | | 2 AMERICAN SOLDIERS | |
| | 3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE | 4 D' LUCKY ONES | 5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | |
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| | 3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE | 4 EIGHT BELOW | 5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | |

At the Activity Center

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|
| Easter Bunny Special by Repertory Philippines April 16, 2006 | Easter Fun at Town April 16, 2006 |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! |
| Ayala Center Cebu's Easter Event & Kiddo's 1st Year Anniversary April 16, 2006 | Cartoon Network Summer Camp April 22, 2006 |

GREENBELT — Bossa Nova with SITTI April 19, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents TWO & TWO MAKE SEX at REP's Globe Theater - April 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, May 5, 6 & 7. For inquiries, pls. call 867-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Registration is now ongoing for Ayala Museum's Summer Art Festival Workshop 2006. For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

NOW ON ITS 3RD WEEK EXCLUSIVELY AT GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

"TWO THUMBS UP."
— Ebert & Roeper

"MUST SEE FILM OF THE YEAR!"
— Paul Clinton, CNN

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13

FROM BUNNY SHOWS TO PONY RIDES, EVERYTHING'S EASTER AT AYALA MALLS

glorietta — ACTIVITY CENTER, April 16, 2006, 2 - 5 pm
- Easter Bunny Special by Repertory Philippines
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Balloon Twisting
- Face Painting
- Egg Painting

ALABANG TOWN CENTER — TOWN PLAZA, April 16, 2006, 1 - 5 pm
- Pony Ride
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Balloon Twisting
- Face Painting

AYALA CENTER CEBU — ACTIVITY CENTER, April 16, 2006, 10 AM - 2 pm
- Mad Science Show
- Timezone Rides
- Body Glitter
- Kiddo's 1st Anniversary Celebration
- Free Balloons
- Free Loot Bag

MARKET! MARKET! — ACTIVITY CENTER, April 16, 2006, 11 am - 7 pm
- Easter Egg-Venture
- Face Painting
- Glitter Tattoos
- Kid's Salon
- Magic Show
- Acrobats & Jugglers
- Easter Egg Design Contest

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*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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# *Kaong* sweetens life for Santa Maria women

## Sugar palm provides a little more food, clothes on the back, and 'baon' for the kids

ONE OF THE ingredients of halo-halo, *kaong* improves rural women's lives.

**By Myrna Rodriguez-Co**
*Contributor, U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries*

PROSPERIDAD, AGUSAN DEL Sur—Acila Coyuca, better known as Nang Ising in the community where she lives, has her hands full every Tuesday and Thursday. These are the days she supervises sweet *kaong*-making at Santa Maria ARBs Credit Cooperative (Stamarbencco) at Barangay Santa Maria in this town.

Washing, sorting, cooking, coloring and bottling of the sugar palm fruits at the coop's 300 sq.m. processing plant at the barangay center are done by 10 women. Nang Ising designates who should do which tasks and makes sure these are done properly—in strict compliance with good manufacturing practices. She does hands on processing too.

Stamarbencco processed *kaong* are sold in schools, grocery and sari-sari stores, offices, and households in Prosperidad and adjoining municipalities by another group of women from the coop.

*Kaong* processing is listed as a key enterprise under the Department of Trade and Industry's One-Town-One-Product (OTOP) scheme. This entitles the project to credit and marketing assistance by government and private development agencies.

Little wonder that STAMARBENCCO officers are now confident of growth for their *kaong* venture. Plans are afoot to enter Davao and Manila retail markets.

### *Kaong* in abundance

*Kaong*, which grows in abundance in the agro-forests of the province, has never been processed on a commercial scale in Prosperidad before the venture began late 2003. Women cook sweet *kaong* in their kitchen, but mostly for home consumption.

Many agro-forest farmers have started planting *kaong* trees in logged areas as an alternative to falcata and other wood trees.

The *kaong* trade is a flourishing business in this part of Mindanao. Traders supply *kaong* processors in Davao del Sur or sell them to consolidators who deliver them to factories in Manila. A typical *kaong* gatherer usually goes home after a day's toil with 20 kg of fresh *kaong* which he sells at about P7 per kg to some local or Davao-based trader.

As general manager, Nang Ising represented the cooperative in the food processing seminars conducted by the Philippine Australian Technical Support for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Patsarrd) for all agrarian reform communities (ARCs) in the province in October 2003. The training was on basic food processing techniques, conducted by food technologists from the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Association (Philfoodex). Faced with an array of products during the training, Nang Ising didn't have to think hard: *kaong* processing was her hands-down choice.

Soon after, Nang Ising gathered a group of women right in her kitchen to share with them what she has learned.

As the idea caught on among the members of the coop, it also gained the support of Patssard, the local governments, and other support agencies. A simple business plan was quickly drawn up for the project.

In the words of Edgar Guardian, National Director of Patsarrd, the project pursues the vision of an ARC "capable of providing opportunities for generating supplementary income for non-farm and alternative income-generating activities."

### Starting sweet 'kaong' making

Patssard provided starter input of P7,000 which the coop used to purchase ingredients for the hands-on training. The rest of the cost requirements for the training was drawn by the cooperative from its own funds.

*Kaong* processing began in earnest in November that year. They continued to work, for a time, in Nang Ising's kitchen using what were available there—a big pot, wooden ladles, and a firewood fueled stove.

That December, at the WOW Philippines Trade Fair in Intramuros, Manila, 150 bottles of Stamarbencco sweet *kaong* were exhibited and sold out.

As the venture progressed, it became clear that the cramped space in Nana Ising's home had to give way to a bigger place to allow not only for increased production but also compliance with health and sanitation measures.

By mid-2004, the coop had raised enough funds to renovate a two-room building owned by the barangay government. This now serves as *kaong* processing center. Still, the coop is looking elsewhere for a permanent place of its own. This may be a 500-sq.m. lot along the main highway, which the cooperative is planning to buy. Already, the provincial government has allocated P250,000 to build a new factory.

At the Joy-Joy *kaong* factory in Davao del Sur, the women observed close range how *kaong* is produced commercially. They ended the visit with an understanding they will supply the factory with processed *kaong* once they get into full production.

Meanwhile, the venture had begun expanding its market. Marketing is done by a team of sellers and canvassers that visits schools, offices and households—all of them female members of the cooperative. Each member of the team meets a sales quota of 50 bottles per marketing

KAONG B2

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## BUKIDNON

**DON CARLOS**

*LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 528.00 sqm.
Lot 6331 (Lot 6294-B) Abad Santos St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 926,000.00

**MALAYBALAY**

*LOT 2 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area. 247.00 sqm.
Lot 2352 Prov'L. Road, Casisang
Minimum Bid Price : 148,500.00

*LOT 3 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 753.00 sqm.
Lot 1463 Brgy. Road, Linabo
Minimum Bid Price : 96,050.00

*LOT 4 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 949.00 sqm.
Lot 1434 Brgy. Road, Linabo
Minimum Bid Price : 71,250.00

*LOT 5 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 26,673.00 sqm.
Lot 1300 & 1307 Brgy. Patpat,
Minimum Bid Price : 316,350.00

**MARAMAG**

*LOT 6 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 74,412.00 sqm.
Lot 395 Bayabason,
Minimum Bid Price : 781,200.00

*LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 2,337.00 sqm.
Lot 715 Old Sayre Highway Dologon
Minimum Bid Price : 413,250.00

*LOT 8 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 32,583.00 sqm.
Lot 729 Provincial Road Dologon
Minimum Bid Price : 391,200.00

*LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 261.00 sqm.
Lot No. 6672, # 0889 Prov'L. Road, M. Del Pilar St., North Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 152,000.00

*LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 317.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.00 sqm.
Lot 6760 (Pls-98 Ext.) M. L. Quezon Ave., South Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 517,600.00

*LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
LA: 369.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot 6759 (Lot 37), Quezon Ave., North Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 738,750.00

*LOT 12 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 583.00 sqm.
Lot 3554 Brgy. Rd. Base Camp
Minimum Bid Price : 93,600.00

**QUEZON**

*LOT 13 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 36,333.00 sqm.
Lot 3482 Nat'L Highway Palacapao
Minimum Bid Price : 232,800.00

*LOT 14 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 70,118.00 sqm.
Lot 154 Puntian
Minimum Bid Price : 318,500.00

*LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 800.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 232.00 sqm.
Lot 940 Nat'L. Highway Cor. Brgy. Road, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 271,800.00

*LOT 16 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 31,700.00 sqm.
Lot 867 San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 155,400.00

*LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 580.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 228.00 sqm.
Lot 1680 Municipal Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 584,250.00

*LOT 18 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot No. 855 Case 2
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

*LOT 19 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 404.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-B Quezon
Minimum Bid Price : 258,400.00

*LOT 20 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 56,117.00 sqm.
Lot No. 554 Quezon
Minimum Bid Price : 359,200.00

*LOT 21 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 1,600.00 sqm.
Lot 1041-D-1-C-1-A-12 & A-13-B Subd. Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 384,000.00

*LOT 22 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-C-1-A-4-B Subd. Road, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 128,000.00

*LOT 23 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-C-1-A-4-C Subd. Road, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 128,000.00

*LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 782.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 239.00 sqm.
Lot 556 Jose Rizal St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 892,000.00

*LOT 25 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 12,800.00 sqm.
Lot 1171 Farm Road, Libertad
Minimum Bid Price : 106,000.00

*LOT 26 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 41,700.00 sqm.
Lot 1149, Farm Road, Libertad
Minimum Bid Price : 344,000.00

*LOT 27 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 6,350.00 sqm.
Lot 1627 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 95,000.00

**VALENCIA**

*LOT 28 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 645.00 sqm.
Lot 677 Brgy. Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 170,400.00

*LOT 29 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 540.00 sqm.
Lot 5-A-3-C Subd. Road, Flores Subd. Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 160,650.00

*LOT 30 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot No. 49-P Brgy. Road, Brgy. Bagontaas, ,
Minimum Bid Price : 153,000.00

*LOT 31 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 300+600= 900.00 sqm.
Lot 79-E-2 & E-1 Brgy. Road, Sugod Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 202,500.00

*LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 1,302.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 161.00 sqm.
Lot 5-A-11-B, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 684,450.00

*LOT 33 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 844.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-A-2 Subd. Road Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 202,400.00

*LOT 34 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 593.00 sqm.
Lot No. 79-F-4 Brgy. Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 142,400.00

*LOT 35 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 20,001.00 sqm.
Lot 102-A Brgy. Rd., Upper Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 288,000.00

*LOT 36 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 825.00 sqm.
Lot 47-A-3 Subd. Rd. Bagonte-As
Minimum Bid Price : 132,000.00

*LOT 37 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 59,885.00 sqm.
Lot 2754-L & 2754-A Int. Lot, Buyog, Banlag
Minimum Bid Price : 670,600.00

*LOT 38 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 59,886.00 sqm.
Lot 2754-J Brgy. Rd., Buyog, Banlag
Minimum Bid Price : 670,600.00

*LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 799.00 sqm.
Lot 523 Prov. Rd., Bo. Barangan
Minimum Bid Price : 192,000.00

*LOT 40 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 803.00 sqm.
Lot 2549 Brgy. Road, Balangan
Minimum Bid Price : 96,000.00

*LOT 41 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 659.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 8 Subd Road, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,400.00

*LOT 42 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 749.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-D Nat'L. Hway, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,067,600.00

*LOT 43 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 748.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-O Nat'L. Hway, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,065,900.00

*LOT 44 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 213.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 4 Subd. Road, Juanlle Subd., Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 181,050.00

*LOT 45 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 838.00 sqm.
Lot 179 Brgy. Road, Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 142,800.00

*LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 838.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot No. 179 Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 142,400.00

*LOT 47 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 285.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Sayre Hway, Brgy. Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 153,900.00

*LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 98.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 12-N-2 Brgy. Road, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 157,500.00

*LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 472.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 203.00 sqm.
Lot 2-J, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 895,500.00

*LOT 50 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 778.00 sqm.
Lot 239-I, 239-G & 239-H Nat'L Highway, Purok 3, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 443,650.00

*LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 356.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 69.00 sqm.
Lot No. 363 Lurugan
Minimum Bid Price : 174,750.00

*LOT 52 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 993.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-A Old Nat'L. Hway. Malag
Minimum Bid Price : 79,200.00

*LOT 53 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 1,453.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-B & 2-A-2-C Old Nat'L. Highway, Malag
Minimum Bid Price : 87,200.00

*LOT 54 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 2,835.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-D, 2-A-2-E, 2-A-2-F & 2-A-2-G Old Nat'L. Hway, Malag
Minimum Bid Price : 176,000.00

*LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 603.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 358 Nat'L. Highway Cor. Brgy. Road, Patag, Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 374,400.00

*LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 213.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 63.00 sqm.
Lot 336-C Nat'L. Highway, Patag, Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 202,400.00

*LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 801.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 330-9 Brgy. Road, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price : 245,600.00

*LOT 58 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 792.00 sqm.
Lot 330-4 Brgy. Road, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

*LOT 59 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 588.00 sqm.
Lot 8-D-4 Subd. Road, Tago Subd., Tagoslos
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

*LOT 60 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 587.00 sqm.
Lot 8-D-5 Subd. Road, Tago Subd., Tagoslos
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

*LOT 61 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 37,208.00 sqm.
Lot 21 Brgy. Road, Tugaya
Minimum Bid Price : 379,100.00

*LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 299.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 66.00 sqm.
Lot 30-F-2-A-7-C Existing Road, # 3594 Kanway St., Yulo Subd. P-13, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 231,200.00

*LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 192.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 150.00 sqm.
Lot 214 Mabini St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,809,900.00

*LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 343.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 60.00 sqm.
Plan Plot No. 196-I-4 Alley, Purok 10, Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 92,000.00

*LOT 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 90.00 sqm.
Lot 194-H-1 Municipal Road, # 2574 Purok 10, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 484,800.00

*LOT 66 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 486.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2 M. Roxas St.
Minimum Bid Price : 949,200.00

*LOT 67 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 206.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I-4-P-8 Orchid St., Purok 16, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

*LOT 68 - AGRILAND*
Lot Area: 55,849.00 sqm.
Lot 455 Barobo
Minimum Bid Price : 418,500.00

*LOT 69 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 275.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 196.00 sqm.
Lot 216-G Municipal Road, # 1193 Purok 4, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 436,000.00

*LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 594.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 262-B A. Bonifacio St., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,160,900.00

*LOT 71 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 180.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 213.00 sqm.
Lot 330 T.N. Pepito St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,224,000.00

*LOT 72 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 752.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 112.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-B-4 # 4266 Orchid St., P-16A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 514,500.00

*LOT 73 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 114.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Brgy. Road & Subd. Road, Purok 13, Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 64,500.00

*LOT 74 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 325.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 195-L-8-D-1 Subd. Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 234,000.00

*LOT 75 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 319.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2, M. Roxas St.
Minimum Bid Price : 881,400.00

*LOT 76 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 519.00 sqm.
Lot 201-C-1 Purok 10, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 248,800.00

*LOT 77 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 7,200.00 sqm.
Lot 226-Ee-17-C Garcia St. Prk 3
Minimum Bid Price : 5,040,000.00

*LOT 78 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 430.00 sqm.
Lot 222-U-9-J Road Lot, Purok 4, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 137,600.00

*LOT 79 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 444.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 10, Subd. Road, Sumkiss Vill., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 248,800.00

*LOT 80 - AGRILAND WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 16,069.00 sqm.
Lot 28-B Brgy. Rd., Patag, Bagonta-As, Valencia
Minimum Bid Price : 231,000.00

*LOT 81 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 192.00 sqm.
Lot 7076 (Lot5560-A) Guinoroyan Road, Purok 10, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 553,000.00

*LOT 82 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 602.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 475.00 sqm.
Lot 1123 Alley, M. Fortich St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 836,000.00

*LOT 83 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT*
Lot Area: 802.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 240.00 sqm.
Lot 1686 Old Nat'L. Hway. Dagatkidavao
Minimum Bid Price : 750,000.00

*LOT 84 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 988.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-C-6 Subd. Rd. Bagontas
Minimum Bid Price : 198,000.00

*LOT 85 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-A-5 Subd. Rd. Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 120,000.00

*LOT 86 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 601.00 sqm.
Lot 115-A-12 Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

*LOT 87 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 40,571.00 sqm.
Lot 2-P Lurugan
Minimum Bid Price : 227,000.00

*LOT 88 - VACANT LOT*
Lot Area: 620.00 sqm.
Lot A-11-C-7-B Brgy. Rd.
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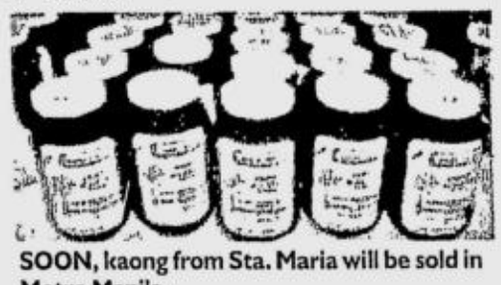

**SOON, kaong from Sta. Maria will be sold in Metro Manila.**

# Kaong...

From page B1

day which takes place three times a week.

Some product innovation took place as the marketing team grew in insights into their buyers and their preferences. Aside from *kaong* in standard 375 and 750-ml bottles, the cooperative now sells *kaong* in 150-ml plastic satchets—a concession to housewives who can't afford the bigger packages. It has developed as well *kaong* in juice and milk flavors for students and other young consumers.

In a follow-up training program on marketing and business systems conducted by Patsarrd in May 2004, the coop officers learned more about marketing strategies and practices. Meanwhile, technical training continued.

At a trade fair held in Manila in June 2004, a buyer from an export firm affiliated with the Philfoodex inquired if the cooperative would be able to supply 120 boxes or 2,880 bottles of processed *kaong* a month.

Although the women demurred they could meet such big volume, they were happy to confirm they indeed have a winner of a product.

They have reason to be skeptical of their volume capability. In 2004, the cooperative produced only a total of 1,884 bottles of processed *kaong* with a gross sales of P65,593.

Nonetheless, for 2006, the cooperative has targeted a production of 1,500 bottles a month—50 percent of the volume indicated by the trade fair visitor or a tenfold increase in capacity.

The cooperative expects to meet this target by employing 20 more women and adding another day's production run per week.

Over the long term, more growth is possible for the enterprise. In time, the products will enter bigger outlets in Davao and Manila. With Patsarrd's assistance, the coop continues to promote the product in big trade events, like the recent National Agraryo Trade Fair held at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong last June.

Sweet *kaong* making, has made life somewhat better for the women involved in it. Each makes P100 for a day's work. As work is part time, she gets to do as well her customary farm and household chores.

As Nang Ising says, there is a little more food on the table, clothes on their back, money for the children's baon. Best of all, the 20 or so women involved in the project feel a bit more fulfilled and empowered and confident about the future.


HONDA

## A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT of HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC

On April 17, 2006, Honda Philippines, Inc., is greatly honored to present to the Filipino people in general, to our customers, dealers, suppliers and associates, in particular, our new, state-of the art, large scale motorcycle production facility designed to serve the mobility needs of the Filipino people in an efficient, economical, safe and environment friendly manner.

Located at Lot 34, Phase IB, Road 3, First Philippine Industrial Park, Tanauan City, Batangas, this factory is aimed to meet the growing demands for motorcycles and to ensure the company's leadership in the industry. With an initial investment of P1.3 Billion and an initial annual capacity of 500,000 units, with considerable potential for further expansion to 1 million units, this new factory signals a major, long term commitment by Honda Motor Company to the development of the motorcycle culture in the Philippines.

The new facility will house both HPI's corporate offices and manufacturing facility, including our Service and Spare Parts Division, and Power Products and will aim to be the First Honda "Green Factory" in the Philippines.

Our factory in Km. 17, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Paranaque City will temporarily serve as warehouse for our CKDs and CBUs until its full conversion into an expanded HONDA SAFETY RIDING ACADEMY.

## You may contact us through the following:

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| Vice President-Human Resources | 581-6723 | 581-6721 |
| Management and Development | | |
| Human Resources Management | | 756-7320 |
| Human Resources Development | | 756-7321 |
| General Affairs | | 756-7321 |
| Labor Relations | | 756-7322 |

| | Direct Lines | Fax Nos. |
|---|---|---|
| Assistant Vice President-Finance | 756-7308 | 581-6777 |
| Accounting | | 756-7350 |
| Budget | | |
| Finance | | 756-7351 |
| Wholesale Credit | | 756-7352 |
| Management Information System | | 581-6757 |
| Assistant Vice President-Manufacturing | 581-6729 | 581-6788 |
| Production Operations | | 756-7347 |
| Total Quality Control | | 756-7341 |
| Plant Maintenance | | 756-7345 |
| Material Services Department | 756-7315 | 756-7346 |
| Purchasing | | 581-6741 |
| Production Planning Control/ | | 581-6740 |
| Import/Export | | |
| Plant Engineering | 756-7334 | 756-7342 |
| Welding | | 756-7343 |
| Painting | | 756-7345 |
| Assembly | | 756-7340 |
| Production Operations | | 756-7347 |

# Taipan invests in future of interior design

IT WAS 1984, A YEAR AFTER the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, when Metrobank Chair George SK Ty conceptualized a national painting competition called the Young Painters Annual (predecessor of MADE or the Metrobank Art & Design Excellence National Competition).

This was to give the troubled nation a reason to hope in the future. The year following YPA's launch, Metrobank Foundation won an Anvil (the Oscars of public relations in the country) for outstanding public affairs program.

The two-year old MADE has four components: painting, sculpture, architecture and interior design. Ty wanted to expand the competition in order to recognize talents in the allied fields of art and design. "From our 20-21 years of purely painting, we transitioned to sculpture and then made a big bang for design in 2005," shares Aniceto Sobrepeña, Executive Director/Executive Vice-President of Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

For 2006, Federal Land, the property development arm of the Metrobank Group of Companies, is providing the physical space—Marquinton residences in Marikina - where the top two finalists will execute their designs from which the grand prize winner will be chosen.

Fiona Ting, Metrobank Foundation Senior Program Officer, says Federal Land is not just providing condominium units in Marquinton to help execute the young designers' vision; the company will also fund the construction of the top two interior design entries. A cash prize of P150,000 each awaits grand prize winners in all four categories.

Metrobank Foundation's programs include honoring outstanding teachers, policemen, soldiers, and blue-collar workers; awarding scholarship grants worth P10 million to students in about 30 universities around the country.

Metrobank's Ty puts his money where his heart is—the bank chair reputedly owns the largest collection of Chinese paintings outside the mainland.

PHOTO SHOWS Global Brands vice president Grace Talens and brand specialist Jora Soriano observing the trainees during the design and pattern-making phase of the course.

| Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure | UNIT PRICES (in Php) | |
|---|---|---|
| Wealth Builder / Wealth Secure | April 10, 2006 | April 3, 2006 |
| Fixed Income Fund | 1.171498 | 1.160854 |
| Balanced Fund | 1.158118 | 1.148596 |
| Equity Fund | 1.129155 | 1.122206 |

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

## Livelihood program for out-of-school youth

TEN OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH ARE NOW undergoing intensive training on footwear design and manufacture at the Philippine Footwear Academy in Marikina under the "Kabuhayan para sa Batang Lansangan" advocacy program of Global Brands Company, makers of Rugby Contact Cement and Super Vulca Seal. The program seeks to promote the youth's welfare through vocational training for self-sufficiency.

## Fresh flower arrangement seminar

IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECtive to give livelihood for those who would like to earn extra income, the Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on fresh flower arrangement to be held at the Vermont Blooms Unlimited # 9 Anonas Rd., Proj. 3, Quezon City on April 22, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing, flower shop operation. There will be a hands-on experienced on how to make long and low arrangement arrangements.

Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served and all the materials will be provided. For questions call 952-40-28/ / 952-29-34/ 436-78-26/ 951-29-66 and 913-65-51.

## Soap-making lecture set

LEARN THE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW ON how to make different soap and earn extra cash.

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making to be held at the UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Avenue, Ylanan St., University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City. on April 29, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There will be a hands-on experience on how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all purpose soap, bar detergent soap, herbal bath soap (papaya, kalamansi, cucumber, oatmeal, etc.) powder soap, fabric softener, car shampoo, bonus courses are liquid bleach, tile and bowl cleaner and how to process virgin coconut oil for soap. Participants will recieve certificate of training right after the seminar. All the materials will be provided. For questions, call 952-40-28, 952-29-34, 951-29-66, 436-78-26 and 913-65-51.

## Home along the riles no more

From page B4

of about 65.90 km. The project will be undertaken in two phases: Phase 1 is the Southrail Commuter Project, covers Caloocan City to Alabang, Muntinglupa with a distance of 40 km., and Phase 2 covers Alabang, Muntinglupa to Calamba, Laguna stretches a distance of 26 km.

Laxa says that it is estimated that over 31,000 families will be displaced by project activities over 40 km. (from Caloocan to Alabang) in Phase 1. Another 11,000 will likely be affected in Phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 shall involve 25.90 km. stretching from Alabang, Muntinlupa to Calamba, Laguna.

*Margie Quimpo-Espino*

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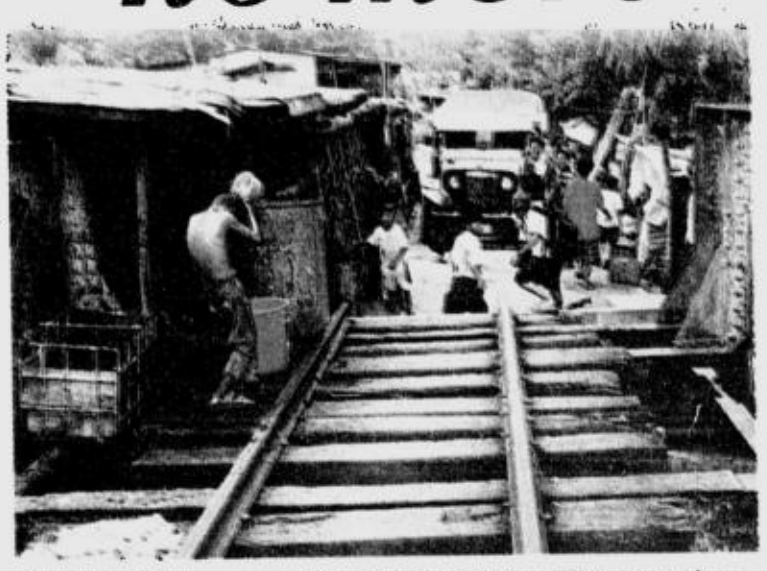
Sunday BIZ

# Home along the *riles* *no more*



THE BULACAN segment of the Northrail project. Photo was taken last July.

RELOCATION site at the Northville 6, Balagtas, Bulacan.

THOSE PASSING along the South Luzon Expressway from Parañaque to Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. in Makati might notice the clearer view of the railroad track.

The same picture is seen going to the North, from Manila to Malolos to Bulacan.

This is because the "informal settlers" or the squatters along these areas, totalling around 80,000, are slowly being relocated.

What is more surprising is that so far, no deaths or major injuries have been reported with the relocation of thousands of families in two major relocation sites—Cabuyao in Laguna and in Bulacan. There were some resistance last year but none big enough to land the front pages similar to relocations in the past.

National Housing Authority general manager Federico Laxa attributes the relatively peaceful relocation to a new scheme adopted by the government—the creation of a Local Inter-Agency Committee, a consultative group that involves different groups and organization involved in the decision-making process for the relocation.

The members of the Liac include the Commission on Human Rights, the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education, the Philippine National Police, the local government units and of course representatives from the informal settlers.

One of the main tasks of the committee is to decide where the squatters will be brought when their illegal dwellings are demolished.

Laxa explains the relocation program provides two options—the *Balik-sa-probinsiya* (back to the province) package where the squatters are given P19,000 per family to be used to cover transportation and other expenses and to enable the families to start a small livelihood program.

The other option is a relocation package where families are given lots worth P100,000 and cash of P50,000 to buy the materials and pay for labor to build a house.

The relocation package carries the option to purchase the lot at six percent interest over 30 years. This is paid in a graduated scheme, at only P200 a month in the first five years.

The government also provides livelihood assistance loans and taps non-government organizations to provide values formation to the members of the relocation site. The NHA provides the funding for these expenses.

The NHA also taps developers who purchase the land, divide these into different lots with titles, and construct the roads, and utilities. Laxa admits sometimes the problem is putting sufficient electricity and water supply in the relocation sites.

The affected families are those without title or tenure rights residing within the Philippine National Rail (PNR) tracks right-of-way. This comprised those who are living in the area 5 meters from the outer tracks of the existing railway which is considered the "danger zone."

In a recent interview, Laxa cited and credited the role played by Vice President Noli de Castro in the relatively peaceful relocation of the squatters.

"All policies on the relocation of the North-South Linkage Project (NSRLP) emanate from the VP which he culled from his continuing dialogues with the affected families as well as the local officials of the areas where they are located," he stresses.

The relocation was hastened because of the Northrail Development Project. The new railroad to be built by a Chinese firm will pass through many squatter ridden sites.

Laxa says that even without the railroad projects, it is the mandate of NHA to clear the rail of informal settlers from danger areas including those staying in the *esteros* and the river banks and provide them with a decent relocation site.

In the northern part of Manila, NHA relocated roughly 15,000 families away from the old PNR tracks in Caloocan, Valenzuela and Bulacan. Funding of the relocation comes from NHA

The northern Manila-Caloocan to Malolos, Bulacan relocation covers 32 km.

On the other hand, the NSLRP is being planned to improve and upgrade the mass transport system for passenger and freight trains to and from Manila and Southern Luzon.

The Linkage Project will provide an efficient means of transportation that is expected to spur growth in the countryside. The project will restore, rehabilitate and modernize the existing lines of PNR to render an effective and efficient system of transporting people and cargo.

The NSRLP covers Caloocan, Metro Manila to Calamba, Laguna with an approximate distance

HOME/ B3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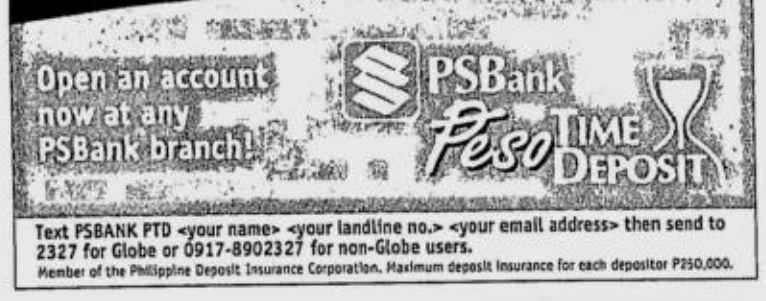


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ANTIPOLO CITY

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,912.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 514.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Don Celso S. Tuazon Rd., Valley Golf Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 6,555,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 241.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 57.00 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 30 Cogeo Vill.
Bagong Nayon
Minimum Bid Price : 765,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 120.00 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 47, Road 22,
Cogeo Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,192,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 462.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 2 Parkridge Estate Ph. 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,466,000.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 478.00 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 3 Parkridge Estate Ph 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,363,000.00

CALOOCAN

LOT 6 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 287.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 30.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 9, Guyo Street,
Silanganan Subdivision, Llano
Minimum Bid Price : 707,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 261.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 127.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 9, Guyo Street,
Silanganan Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price : 1,023,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 30.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 60.00 sqm.
Lot 11-D/Blk 9, Guyo St.,
Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 392,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 24.20 sqm.
Floor Area: 46.00 sqm.
Lot 11-F/Blk 9, Guyo St.,
Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 287,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 166.00 sqm.
#289 Camann Rd., Camann
Minimum Bid Price : 2,559,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 120.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 55.00 sqm.
(Lot 17-B/Blk 354) 132 Binhagan St., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 1,929,000.00

LAS PIÑAS

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 63.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 52.00 sqm.
L7B10 Santan St., Camella Townhomes, Talon 3
Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

LOT 13 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 56.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 59.00 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 1 Ch Woodsrow Townhomes 3, Aguilar Ave
Minimum Bid Price : 1,169,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 803.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 405.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 1, J Racasa St., Bf Resort Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 7,228,000.00

MAKATI

LOT 15 - Condo Unit
Floor Area: 48.17 sqm.
Unit Ug-12 Star Centrum Condominium 317 Gil Puyat Ave
Minimum Bid Price : 2,053,000.00

LOT 16 - CONDO
Floor Area: 127.00 sqm.
Unit 333 9Th Floor, Sagittarius Residential Condominium Building I, Dela Costa St
Minimum Bid Price : 5,284,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 359.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 227.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2 # 1472 D Olman St., San Miguel Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 8,086,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 309.00 sqm.
Floor Area: sqm.
Lot 7 Blk16 No.1720 Escuela St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price : 6,397,000.00

MALABON

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 494.00 sqm.
(Lot 7) #18 Interior M Aquino St., Niugan
Minimum Bid Price : 727,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 294.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 116.00 sqm.
(Lot 31 Blk 10) 31 R. Diaz St., Merville Subd., Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,236,000.00

MANILA

LOT 21 - Condo Unit
Floor Area: 35.20 sqm.
Unit 514 5Th Floor Plaza Towers Condominium Leon Guerrero Ermita
Minimum Bid Price : 380,000.00

LOT 22 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 61.63 sqm.
Floor Area: 340.00 sqm.
1-B-3C-1-B/ 4041 #1620 G. Tuazon Corner Loreto St Sampaloc Manila
Minimum Bid Price : 3,215,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 217.40 sqm.
Floor Area: 80.00 sqm.
Lot 21-D-4 #2401 Int. 21 Dagohoy, Singalong, Malate
Minimum Bid Price : 2,667,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 325.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 145.00 sqm.
Lot 8 / Blk 1, # 104(New) Alley 1, Dona Filomena Subd., West Crame, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 3,816,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 443.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 7/Blk 101, Urbano St., Kabayanan, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 5,383,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 47.90 sqm.
Floor Area: 89.00 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 279 1717 F. Varona Near Dandan Sts., Tondo
Minimum Bid Price : 774,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 398.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 50.00 sqm.
L5B1 Rolling Hills Dr., Monterey Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 788,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 373.00 sqm.
(Lot 35-A-2-A) #78 Int. National Road, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,417,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

LOT 29 - CONDO UNIT & 12.50 PARKING SLOT
Floor Area: 37.50 sqm.
(Unit B2-14-3-J2-4) No. 3-A Papaya Bldg. II, Cluster 14, Westmont Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,011,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 502.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 236.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-A, Int. Of Papa Pio St., Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,868,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 296.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 155.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6, 9-A & 9-B Roselle St., Man-El Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,304,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-B-1-B Interior Of Papa Pio St Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 228.00 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 2 Nina Ricci Drive, Savvy 25, Brgy. Marcelo
Minimum Bid Price : 873,000.00

PASAY

LOT 34 - Vacant Lot
Lot Area: 404.00 sqm.
Lot 3, #355 F. Rosario St., Sta. Clara
Minimum Bid Price : 4,848,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 60.90 sqm.
Floor Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot C-2-1 Unit 5 Hernandez Townhomes, 56 Don Hernandez St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price : 2,940,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 36 - 3-STOREY BLDG, ROOFDECK, CARPORT
Lot Area: 94.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 247.00 sqm.
L49B15 48 Sto.Nino St. Villa Espana
Minimum Bid Price : 2,596,000.00

LOT 37 - CONDO UNITS
Lot Area: sqm.
Floor Area: 96.00 sqm.
Unit#S 3 & 4, 3Rd Flr. Heart Of The City Condominium, Sgt Esguerra Corner Eugenio Lopez St., Brgy. South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price : 3,192,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 44.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 80.00 sqm.
(Lot 58-C/B225) #17-C Bernardo St., Brgy Manblo, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 938,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 401.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 200.00 sqm.
11- B Filgino St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 6,346,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 416.00 sqm.
L6 B2 Remarville Ave., Remarville Subd., Seminary Rd., Bagbag, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 3,782,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 488.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Quezon St., Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 2,957,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 364.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 159.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 33 Butler St., Tumbok Bronx St., Fairmont I Subd, North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 2,953,000.00

LOT 43 - CONDOMINIUM
Floor Area: 50.16 sqm.
U/3 3/F Rsg Condominium, Ermin Garcia St., Brgy.Pinagkaisahan,Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 933,000.00

LOT 44 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 250.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 167.00 sqm.
Lot 5-C-9 # 11 Private Road 20Th Ave. Brgy. Manga Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 3,080,000.00

LOT 45 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 312-B & 312-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,101,000.00

LOT 46 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 612-B & 612-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,215,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 481.60 sqm.
Floor Area: 196.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 7 #8 Promenade Lane, Bluendge B Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 9,153,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 51.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 109.00 sqm.
Lot 27-A, Portion Of Lot 27/Blk 33, #1-A (Townhouse Unit) Bakawan St., Veterans Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,963,000.00

LOT 49 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 617.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 461.00 sqm.
Lot 3 & 4 Blk 1 # 7 Flarvil St. Delta Village Brgy. Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 3,448,000.00

LOT 50 - Makeshift Improvement
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 601-A-4-A-5-A Interior Of # 17 Gloria Ii Tandand Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 51 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 120.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 428.00 sqm.
23-B / Lch-17 #32 Hyacinth St. Roxas District
Minimum Bid Price : 2,320,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 526.40 sqm.
Floor Area: 384.00 sqm.
Lot 25 & 27/Blk 41, 98 Alley 2 Corner Alley 7, Project 6
Minimum Bid Price : 5,208,000.00

LOT 53 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 268.60 sqm.
Floor Area: 280.00 sqm.
5/34 #2 Jose Mn. Hugo St. Cor. May Isa St. Manila Project 4
Minimum Bid Price : 3,450,000.00

LOT 54 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 444.30 sqm.
Floor Area: 377.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk132, #19 Masikap St., Pinahan
Minimum Bid Price : 8,533,000.00

LOT 55 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 10-A To 10-E B10 Laguna St. Bonifacio Vill. Pasong Tamo
Minimum Bid Price : 3,079,000.00

LOT 56 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 181.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86.00 sqm.
Lot 492-Dd-9 # 39 San Ignacio St. Brgy. Guiod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,008,000.00

LOT 57 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 418.40 sqm.
Floor Area: 267.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 23 # 11 Maalindog St. Up Village Diliman
Minimum Bid Price : 6,799,000.00

LOT 58 - W/ 3 SQUATTER FAMILIES
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A Jasmin St., Dona Juana/Gilarmi Subd., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price : 1,947,000.00

LOT 59 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 192.15 sqm.
Floor Area: 192.00 sqm.
Lot 246-B-2-B # 44 Baesa Road Brgy. Baesa
Minimum Bid Price : 1,823,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 869.00 sqm.
Lot 199-B-3-K, Outskirt Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,217,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 540.00 sqm.
L11B1 & L2B5 Kasiyahan St Brgy Holy Spirit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,215,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 820.00 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 10 Sunnyside Hts., Fairvest Homes II, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price : 3,116,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 206.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 151.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 21 #23 Ruel St. Meralco Village, San Juan, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,056,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 319.00 sqm.
Lot 4043-A-11, Bemo Pantay, Teresa
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# Digitel offers 3G service

MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY ARE NOT only terminologies but have become indispensable means to do business and have enriched man's lifestyle. They come, though, with a high price especially with the advent of third-generation or 3G technology. This latest offering by telecommunication carriers offers a fast and wireless option but could go beyond the reach of many.

Digitel provides a 3G service that is more practical, affordable and relevant to both business and personal needs of people from all walks of life by introducing its latest innovative product—Mango.

Powered by CDMA 20001X (Code Division Multiple Access), a 3G technology, it provides a wireless high-speed, Internet-ready landline service. Mango is capable of deploying up to 150 kbps connection speed, three times faster than regular dial-up connection and much faster than GPRS.

Mango gives users the freedom to move around and make and receive voice calls, whether local, domestic and international from 1-5 kms from the base station.

It allows unlimited local calls to landline numbers within the National Capital Region (NCR) plus other areas with 02 area code (for NCR Mango subscribers) or within the province with local interconnection (for Provincial Mango subscribers). Important landline features are likewise embedded like caller ID, call forwarding, auto-call back, call waiting, conference calling and abbreviated dialing.

Moreover, it is equipped with value added services like texting (SMS). Texting to other phone networks is very affordable like using your regular cellphone.

You can be connected with colleagues, family, friends and business associates with just one powerful tool that gives subscribers broadband Internet access, the convenience of making and receiving phone calls and text messaging in your home or office, or anywhere up to 1-5 km. from the base station. All these for as low as P672 a month inclusive of VAT.

Internet and text rates use pay-per-use. Mango is ideal for residential users who constantly need to update on their personal affairs both in and out of the house; and business subscribers who require instant wireless telephone access, particularly high-speed Internet connection.

The Mango landline service comes with a handset of your choice—one similar to a GSM cellular phone or a landline device (fixed wireless phone).

To date, Digitel is already offering Mango service in strategic locations in Luzon.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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PLAYTIME with PCSO chair Sergio Valencia /D1

EVANGELISTA-CRUZ nuptials /F2

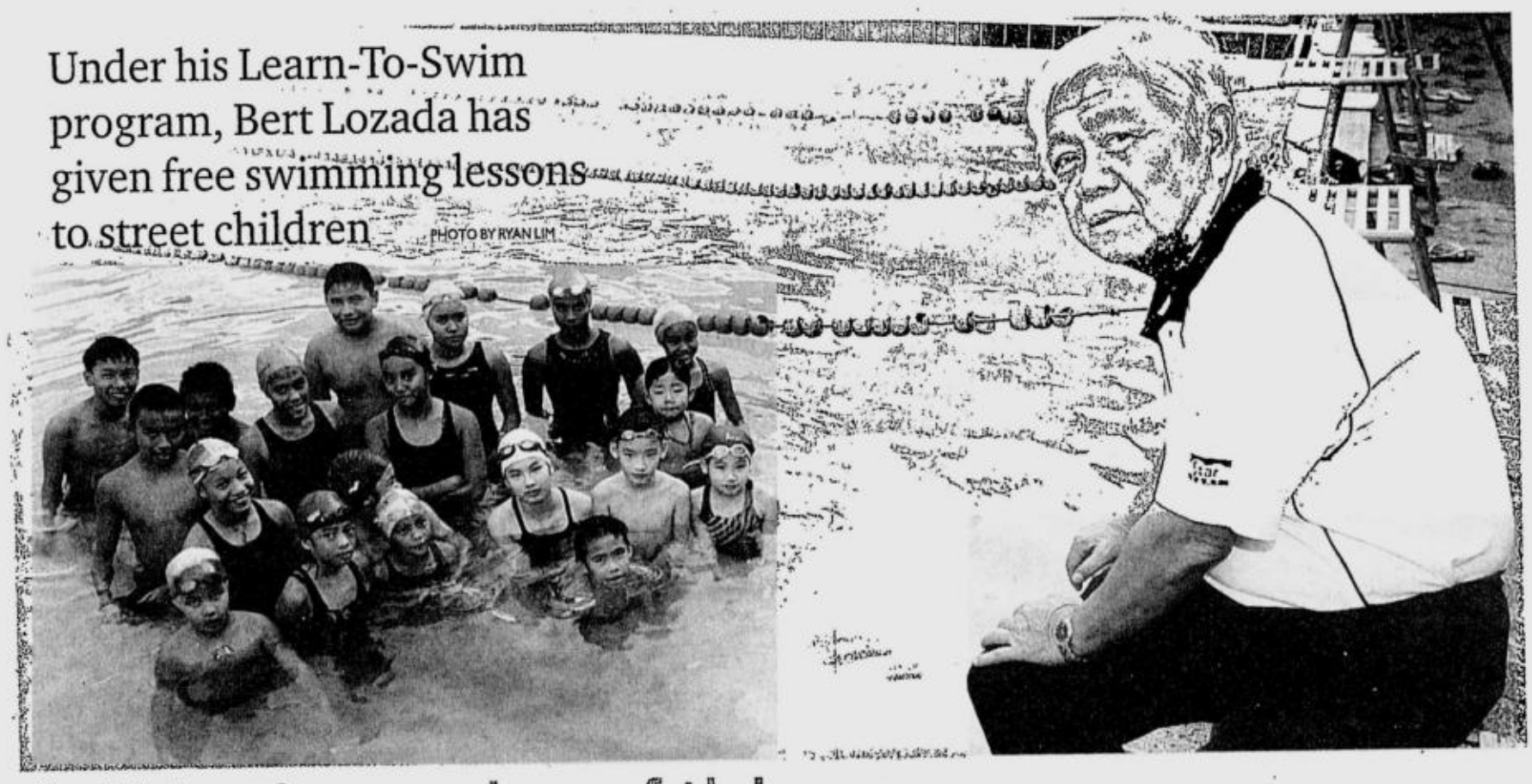
# Because He said, 'Love one another'

HAPPY Easter!

This being the season for renewal, we thought of bringing you stories about a few good men and one woman who are heeding Christ's commandment: Love one another just as I have loved you.

These are folks who are helping others live better lives in ways that we think are a bit out of the ordinary. Which is not to minimize the importance of what most of you are doing out there to help fix the world in your own small way. Small is good, actually. Small is a start. Small can snowball into a miracle, or at least the beginning of one.

But for those of us who cannot be bothered to actively care for those who have less in life, we hope these stories warm your hearts enough to do this much: Pass them on so they can inspire others.



Under his Learn-To-Swim program, Bert Lozada has given free swimming lessons to street children – PHOTO BY RYAN LIM

## Still in the swim of things

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**

AT 65, BERT LOZADA IS NOT slowing down a bit.

No, not yet. Not when he incredibly enjoys teaching people—young and old alike—how to swim, and be a good swimmer at that.

Lozada says, "I owe my success in life to swimming. In return, I like to share what I learned and experienced with others."

For several years now, this gentle, venerable white-haired man has shared his experience with the less fortunate.

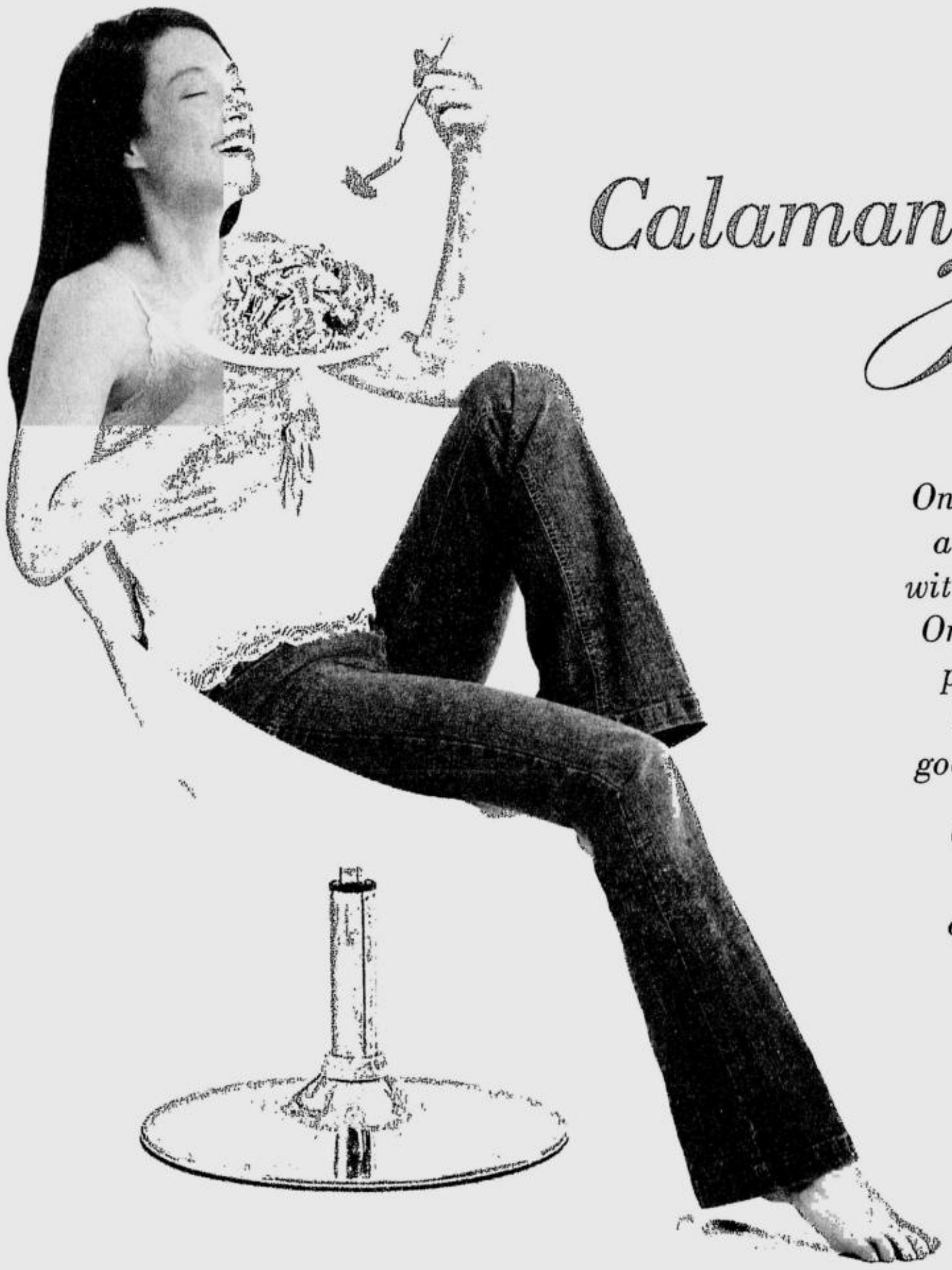
Under his Learn-To-Swim program, he gives free swimming lessons to street children from different parts of Metro Manila and some provinces. He talks to the children's parents and explains the benefits of swimming.

"More than its health benefits, learning to swim often builds a real sense of confidence," Lozada explains.

The kids also learn discipline and patience.

"I always want to develop young good swimmers so they'd have a chance to study in universities or colleges as scholars. They get a monthly allowance, (may be) travel abroad and give pride to their families and country," he says.

STILL/ C2



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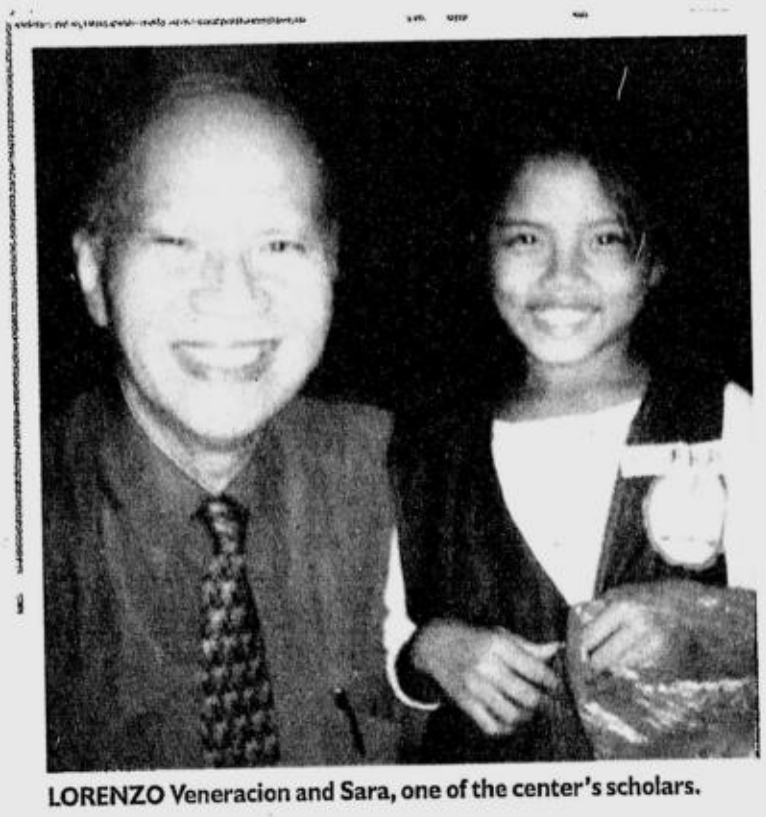
the Supermeat

# 'I lost a daughter, but now I have s



LORENZO Veneracion and Sara, one of the center's scholars.

## His daughter's demise gave retired judge Lorenzo Veneracion a new lease on life

By Pam Pastor

IN THE '80S, LORENZO VENERACION WAS living the good life. He was a judge, he had a Japanese business partner, he traveled to Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong almost every month. "It was like I had everything I could ask for," he said.

But on June 26, 1987, his 25-year-old daughter Lorely died in a plane crash. His life was never the same again.

"She was an HRM graduate from UP. She was invited by a cousin of my wife to travel to Baguio. Eleven minutes to the airport, they crashed. We later found out that it was due to pilot's error. I received a call telling me about the crash. They told me there were no survivors. My life took a 360-degree turn."

Instead of letting himself wallow in grief, he looked at his daughter's life as a wake-up call.

"Her death made me realize there are more important things in life than all those worldly things. Sometimes it feels as though my daughter died for me to know God."

### Foundation

Veneracion then told his family he wanted to put up a foundation in his daughter's honor. "I wanted to do projects on her birthday."

On Jan. 5, 1988, he established a day-care center. A year after that, he added another project. "I had this idea of a soup kitchen." He established it in Jan. 5, 1989.

"That soup kitchen was just a small corner on Mayon Street. But people came from as far as Valenzuela."

Someone from Rustan's found out about his project, visited his soup kitchen and started a partnership with him by donating meat bones and second-harvest food. It was a big step and Veneracion was ready for more. "God was telling me, you can do more."

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# Doggone love

## Raymund Lee and his pet Pugslee would like nothing more than to cheer up sick people with the help of four-legged friends

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

A PET. THAT WAS ALL RAYMUND Lee wanted. How could he have known that the craggy, flat-faced bundle of fur he brought into his home would lead him to do good for others?

"I blame it all on Pugslee," deadpans Lee. Pugslee is his 4-year-old male pug.

Lee, 34, is the founder of Friends for Life (FFL), an informal group of volunteers who use their four-legged pals to "give temporary smiles and emotional support" to the sick.

FFL, since its inception in 2003, has been visiting young patients with cancer and other serious ailments. It teaches volunteers who, in turn, train their own dogs for obedience and other tricks specific to hospice visits.

According to Lee, an artist for international comic books who's also an accomplished clicker trainer, it was Pugslee that, well, unleashed the gentle puppy in his master.

"I only wanted to toilet-train him for my own convenience," Lee recalls, who got Pugslee when the dog was just 3 months old. Pugs are perceived to be stubborn, mulish and lazy, but "he's a fluke," says Lee of his pet. The pug proved to be exceptionally clever, and quite eager to please. These days, he responds to over 200 English words.

### Ignorance

It was then that Fred Alimusa, a canine behaviorist, brought up the idea of training service dogs to Lee. The idea was primarily to educate Filipinos, adults and children alike, how to foster not just love and care, but also respect for man's best friend. They also wanted to teach people how pets could be of help to others.

Many Filipinos are afraid of dogs, and this is largely because of ignorance, says Lee. In fact, he adds, it's adults that are often more skittish around canines, and that irrational fear they pass on to their children. When he takes his dogs in public, Lee often runs into parents who grab their kids by the hand and tell them to stay away because dogs are *taught* to maul kids.

"We want to teach kids how to behave around dogs," he says, so they don't provoke those much-feared bites.

Lee and the Thailand-based Alimusa formulated the program through correspondence. With a tagline that says, "Where love is a four-legged word," Lee, with only one volunteer, founded FFL.

FFL has scheduled visits every other month in select hospitals, institutions and orphanages. Though Lee would want to expand FFL's reach, he laments that animal-assisted therapy is still deemed unorthodox in these parts.

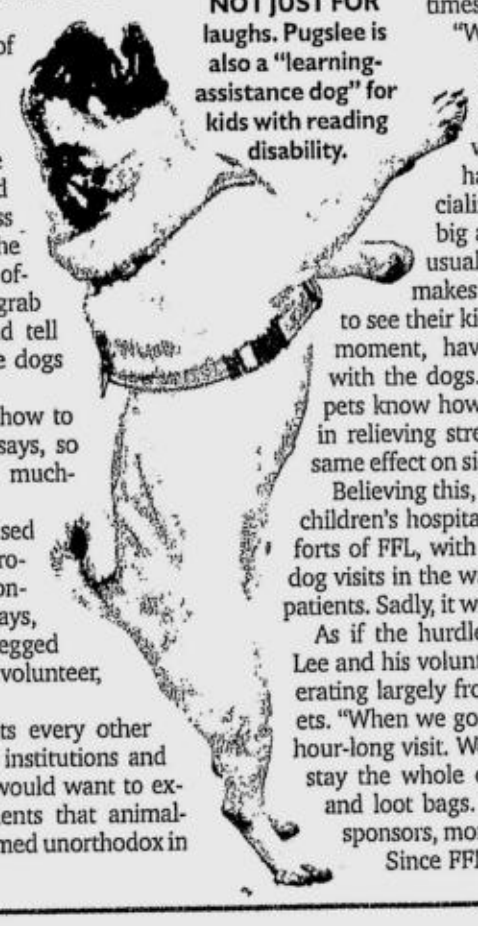
Lee recalls the first child who made him feel that, perhaps, they were doing a good thing. "She was 8, but was so small. Her doctors gave her three months to live. She was so sick she just sat in a corner." It was FFL's first outreach project. "Then Pugslee performed the *otso-otso* (dance). Suddenly the child smiled, stood up and walked up to Pugslee!"

He mourns, however, that Filipinos are still largely unaware of the benefits of petting furry creatures to a person who's ill.

### Dismay

Jesilu Matubis shares Lee's dismay. A mom of a young girl who survived biliary atresia, a liver condition that afflicts infants, Matubis recalls that when her daughter was recovering from a liver transplant in the United States, the house where they stayed with pediatric cancer patients would often get visits from therapy dogs.

"I saw how the dogs made the kids happy," she says. Matubis is co-founder of Lift-Babies Foundation, in support of other children afflicted with the same liver ailment. FFL has visited Lift-Babies six times.



**NOT JUST FOR laughs. Pugslee is also a "learning-assistance dog" for kids with reading disability.**

"When we came home, I was pleased to hear of FFL. Kids with biliary atresia have very little socialization. They have big abdomens and are usually in pain. It makes the parents happy to see their kids, even for a brief moment, having a good time with the dogs. People who have pets know how effective they are in relieving stress. They have the same effect on sick kids."

Believing this, Lift-Babies wrote a children's hospital endorsing the efforts of FFL, with a request to allow dog visits in the wards for bed-bound patients. Sadly, it was turned down.

As if the hurdles weren't enough, Lee and his volunteers have been operating largely from their own pockets. "When we go out, it's not just an hour-long visit. We make it a point to stay the whole day. We bring food and loot bags. Sometimes we get sponsors, more often we don't."

Since FFL has only 10 active volunteers, all working professionals ("We had trained more, but I guess they were only after the free training"), scheduling visits has also been tough on Lee. "It's a challenge when you have 50 kids and only two dogs. So we learn how to be entertainers ourselves."

### Family affair

FFL visits are a family affair in the Lee household—for both humans and canines. Lee and wife Redna take along Redjine, 11, and Redmond, 9, to demonstrate that dogs, if handled properly, are gentle around children.

Java, their people-pleasing Golden Retriever, is there for the petting and the big hugs, says Lee. The wrinkled little face that started it all is, naturally, the entertainer. A third family dog is now in training.

Like Lee's pets, FFL's canine volunteers are taught how to behave around kids. Kids will be kids, "so there will be instances when they'd tug at a dog's tail, or step on its paws, so the dogs are trained not to be aggressive." They are also trained to not get startled by sudden noises and movements.

All breeds (yes, *even* Rottweilers) of all ages (you *can* teach old dogs new tricks), as long as they're healthy, can be screened for FFL work, according to Lee. Even non-pet-owning volunteers are welcome. (Call Lee at 0920-4443500.)

For all his efforts, Lee says it only takes a smile on the face of sick child to give him satisfaction.

As for Pugslee, well, one little affectionate pat on his tiny sweet head, and he's once more ready to bestow his very own brand of unconditional love.

*E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph*

# Ex-communis
# the power ofcor

## Bobbie Jopson Lagman has left the communist underground for a new life as a Christian activis

By Anne A. Jambora

WHEN BOBBIE JOPSON Lagman joined the Communist Party of the Philippines 30 years ago, little did she know she was embarking on a life of faith.

An atheist hardened by the unforgiving reality she had experienced from 22 years of living underground, she never once imagined she would one day become an evangelical Christian.

"The military failed to arrest me, but it was God who arrested me," said the 48-year-old wife to the slain labor leader and former Alex Boncayao Brigade head, Popoy Lagman.

She quietly raised her daughter after she resigned from the Revolutionary Left in 1999. But the tragedy that struck Quezon province in 2004 made her go back to a life of activism, although of the spiritual sort.

When Quezon took the brunt of four successive typhoons, Lagman was among those who did relief work. Her plan was to drop the goods and do volunteer work before heading back to the city. But God, she said, had other plans for her.

Since then, she has never left the place.

No stranger to strategy and operations, Lagman, along with other volunteers, established Operation Compassion (OC). It is an organization that is pursuing a most ambitious dream: Transforming the nation through "holistic restoration" and the development of urban and rural poor communities.

Unlike most charitable institutions that fly in relief and volunteer work, OC helps develop communities into self-sufficiency.

Help is never spoon-fed. Communities have to look after themselves and to learn that prosperity can be achieved only through hard work and collective support. The road to progress is never quick and easy. OC will guide a community's rehabilitation for three to five years before making an assessment report if it's ready to stand on its own.

Based on the premise that the basic unit of governance is the family, OC aims to restore the Filipino's dignity through its TAO program ("transforming" character, "addressing" basic needs, "organizing" the community).

"I am seeing all this in a different light. I experienced so much w
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# Still in the swim of things

From page C1

With Lozada's assistance, many have parlayed their acquired skills to get scholarships in schools in search of fresh talents to beef up their swimming teams.

"It's so heartening to see them graduate because of swimming," says Lozada, who sometimes even pays for the kids' swim gear and snacks after lessons.

The afternoon this writer visits him at the Ciria Cruz Sports Complex in Pandacan, Manila, he is supervising the training of his students, including 15-year-old Joanna Marie Bagat, who received swimming lessons from him for free and is now a third-year high-school athletic scholar of the University of the East.

Bagat started training at 7. "Sir Bert," she says with pride, "didn't only teach us how to swim, but instilled in us the value of discipline, responsibility, respect for others and persistence."

At a young age, Bagat has made her parents—and Lozada—proud. She has won medals in various competitions, including the breaststroke event in the annual Manila Youth Games.

This year she did not join the MYG because Lozada is preparing her for the national swimming team tryout.

"We're happy that we started with Sir Bert and that he never gets tired teaching young people like me," she says.

### Teacher forever

"I enjoy teaching. I enjoy the sharing of knowledge. I want to continue the legacy of my father in teaching other people," says Lozada, a former national record-holder and national coach.

He learned the basics of swimming back in the '50s from his late father, Catalino, a national swimming coach. Catalino was among the first Filipinos to establish a swimming school that followed international standards and was accredited by the Department of Education.

Although already competing and winning at swim meets, Bert would help his dad teach younger students. "I basically started teaching at 15, and I have never stopped to this day," he says.

Now nearing his golden anniversary in teaching, he can be proud that the Bert Lozada Swim School is the country's premier swimming institution, continues to open more venues where more people—babies, children, adults and special children—can discover that swimming does not only contribute to health and survival but can be fun as well.

BLSS was established back in the 1960s, after Lozada started teaching in various sports clubs and schools.

Lozada continues to update his teaching skills by regularly attending seminars in the United States and Europe. Helping him execute his programs are his two sons, Anthony and Angelo, both former national swimming coaches. Both also free lessons to street children, just like their father.

The family has been widely known to offer a safe and effective swimming program for people from 6 months to 60 years old.

Lozada has, in fact, given swimming lessons to a 92-year-old grandmother, while also training a 4-month-old baby to swim.

Lozada also offers his former students extra income by taking them in as swimming instructors.

"Teaching is not easy, but it can be a rewarding experience. I will not stop as long as I'm living. And if I go, my children will continue it for me."

*E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph*

### PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family

GET a chance to win free swimming lessons from the Bert Lozada Swimming School plus swimwear and swiming gear from Speedo for the whole family (maximum of five members) this summer. Join the PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family Summer Swimming Promo.



The promo is open to all INQUIRER readers in Metro Manila. To join, do the following:

1. Read the accompanying article on Bert Lozada and answer the following questions:
   - How old is Lozada now?
   - What is the name of his program that gives free swimming lessons to street children?
   - Who is the 15-year-old UE scholar that Lozada trained?
   - What was the name of Lozada's late father?
   - How old was swimming studen
2. Write down y a separate sheet o your name, date o dress, land line nu phone number, e-i any) and th
3 promo mechan photocopy not ac send with your an family photo in on
4. Address the PDI-BLSS-Speed mer Swimming Pr Lifestyle, Don Chi enue cor. Yague a Streets, Makati Ci be mailed or hand offices.
5. Entries may

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# o many children'

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Mayor Jun Simon of Quezon rea near Masambong. He said, *lhin.*' I asked for a bigger space

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is happy with the idea. There ren there, most of whom didn't akfast. But they soon found out controlled by the national gov- the city government. Still, they ir efforts were not futile.

"We had the ceremonial groundbreaking and we put up a billboard to commemorate it. The very next day, it was destroyed by the people living in the area. They didn't like the idea, they were scared of being displaced. It took us a year to negotiate with them."

By 1993, the contract was signed. And on January 1994, a day short of what would have been his daughter's 32nd birthday, construction started.

"No one believed it could be finished," Veneracion said. "We only had P2.5 million donated mostly by Japanese Rotarians. People were trying to convince me to scale it down. But I said no, we made a representation that this would be a four-story building and we were going to do it."

And they did. Slowly but surely. As more money poured in, Veneracion and his team continued working on the building. "'*Pag merong dumating na pera*, we went on with the construc

'I LOST'/ C4

**VENERACION** with a few of the Payatas kids he's been helping.

# : shows npassion

ued, was that it forgot about the foundation of society.

## Strong foundation

It is, therefore, OC's aim to build a strong foundation so that the future generation will become a new breed of Filipinos—proud, hardworking, morally upright and God-fearing. Instill in children solid values, and it will stay with them for a lifetime, she said.

During the height of devastation in Quezon, OC first helped provide for the urgent needs of the displaced survivors —clothing, food and shelter. Then they brought in doctors and other medical and social workers, including pastors, to address the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of the communities. After the stress and trauma counseling, OC then started the rehabilitation of the communities, providing livelihood to families and social support to barangays.

One of its programs is to instill the virtue of saving money. The strategy was simple. Lagman said the villagers were requested to declare how much they could manage to save each week, and if the lowest entry, for instance, is P20, then everyone should save P20 each week. That way, she said, there would be no excuse not to be able to save.

Through a community-based Bayanihan savings "bank," the people were issued passbooks. Now they dutifully deposit money every week. On a ledger is every depositor's name and his deposits. This is another method for OC to teach them the value of transparency and trust.

"There was resistance to change at first. It is the Filipinos' habit to immediately get a loan when under severe economic pressures," said Bobby Babac, OC organizer in Barangay Banglus, General Nacar.

After her family fled to the rooftop, Narcisa Avenilla, a 56-year-old mother of six, watched in horror as the flood gobbled up the community, knocking down neighborhood houses and trees. A family of farmers, they lost their carabao in the storm. She lost all hope.

Avenilla said she wouldn't have known what to do had OC not found them. With OC's assistance her family was able to build a house out of the uprooted trees, they were taught what

EX-COMMUNIST/ C4

**"GOD swept me off my feet. I was already a fulfilled person when I was with the Left, but I have never felt joy this way," says Bobbie Jopson-Lagman.** PHOTO BY RODEL ROTONI

## Jmmer Swimming Promo

Lozada's oldest ?
our answers on paper. Include: birth, home address, mobile mail address (if e names and s of birth of mbers of your mediate family. Cut out this cs box (sorry, eptable) and wer sheet and e envelope. nvelope to: Family Summo, c/o o Roces Avd Mascardo y. Entries may delivered to PDI

lso be dropped off at any Speedo Concept Store.

6. **Deadline for submission of entries is Thursday, April 20.** A raffle will be held to choose one winner from all entries with the correct answers.

The winning family will be announced on April 23 in Sunday Lifestyle.

Prizes for a maximum of five members of the winning family includes free swimming lessons from BLSS and swimwear and swimming gear from Speedo. Prizes may be claimed at the BLSS, 2401 Tejeron Street, Sta. Ana, Manila (tels. 0917-700SWIM (7946), 5891982, 5635532, 5628041).

9. For inquiries regarding the promo, please call INQUIRER Marketing Department at 8978808 loc. 259 or 263 and look for Ching dela Cruz.

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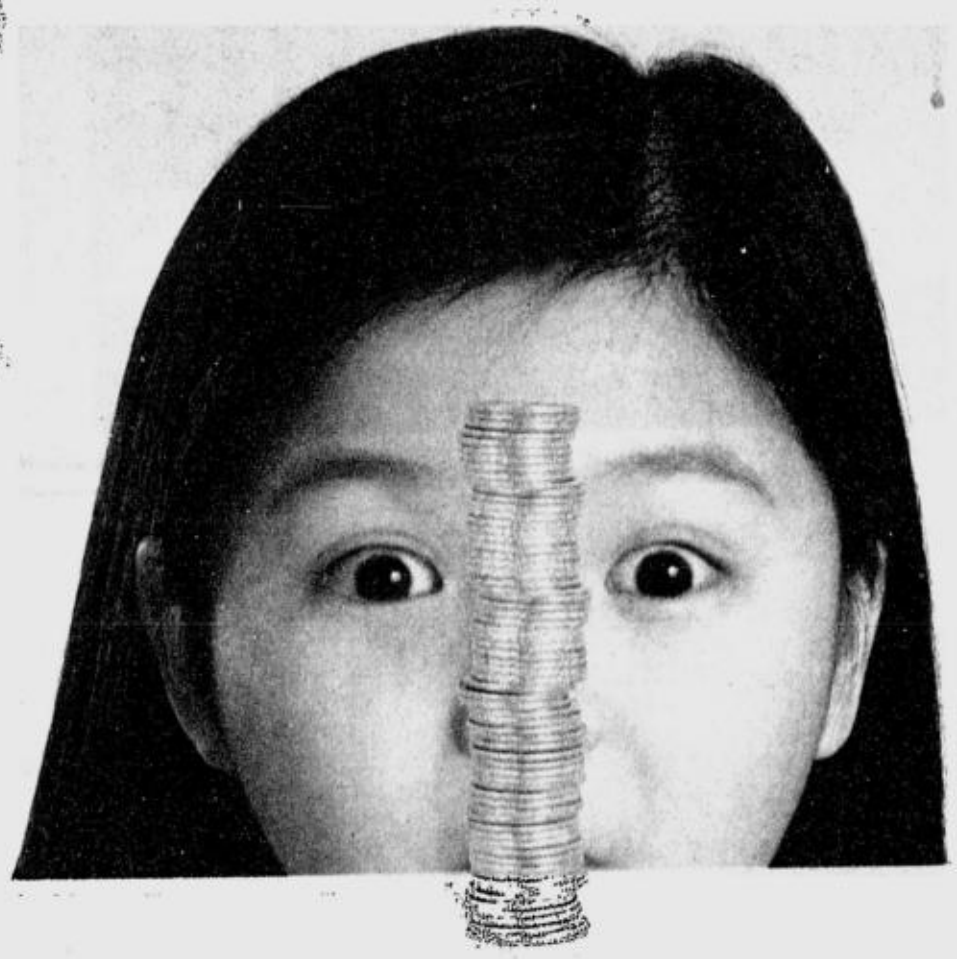

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# 'I lost a daughter . . .'

From page C2

tion." Miraculously, people kept sending money.

Veneracion was planning on building more than just a soup kitchen. "I wanted a training program, to have a school. It had to be holistic. The soup kitchen is the come-on for the people. But aside from the food, a part of the program was teaching them values."

## Reality

Today, his vision has become a reality. He and his volunteers are able to feed over 2,000 children in 13 centers around the city every day.

But he doesn't stop at just the food. With the help of donors from the US and Japan, they are helping send children to school. "The cost of sending one child to school is $100 a year."

The parents undergo leadership training and are encouraged to learn new ways of livelihood. Some of them have been creating pouch bags, mats, baskets, curtains, bedspreads and even shoes.

Veneracion has no plans of stopping. He has another project in Payatas—a preschool and feeding center. "We just put up the sign: Doug and Sharlane Gardner Preschool. It is named after a couple from the United States who donated money to help establish the new center."

Right now, he says the center needs two teachers and two teachers' aides. And hopefully a television and VCD player so children can watch educational programs.

This man with a big heart has giant dreams. "My biggest dream is to have a complete community where everything is there for people—everything that would encourage them to become productive."

And none of those dreams are for him. "*Wala na akong* dream to gain fame or honor. I don't dream of it anymore.

"*Ang kagandahan nito*, your life becomes more meaningful. That's exactly what God wants you to do. God wants you to love children, the poor. You're not doing it because you want to be known, you're doing it because God wants you to. *Yan ang napakagandang pakiramdam*."

One afternoon, during a feeding at the soup kitchen, children surrounded Veneracion, grabbed his hand and pressed it against their forehead for blessing.

Then a little girl walked to the front of the room to lead the others in prayer. "*Salamat po kay* Judge Lorenzo Veneracion *sa pagtulong niya sa amin. Pahabain niyo po ang buhay niya*."

Veneracion watched as bowls of rice and vegetables were placed in front of the kids, who eagerly dug in.

"I lost a daughter, but now I have so many children," he said.

*The Soup Kitchen's principal office is at 121-41 Rotary Drive , NGC Housing Project, Pilot Area, Barangay Commonwealth QC. Call 9398288, 9304262, 4307666 and 0917-5252068. E-mail judgelore@soup-kitchen.org*

*E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph*

# Ex-communist shows . . .

From page C2

crops work with the new soil left by the flood, They have learned for the first time how to save money and experienced the advantages of the *bayanihan* spirit.

OC loaned the community a new carabao, too. This was after Lagman had seen Avenilla with a plowshare over her shoulders and become the beast of burden to make up for the loss of the carabao.

"I have learned all these years that even the poorest of the poor are capable of catching a vision, fighting for a vision and dying for a vision," Lagman said.

OC works with several different churches around the country. OC's template for building communities in Quezon may be copied elsewhere. It is meant for all communities interested to make a change.

Volunteer students from the University of the Philippines and the Ateneo de Manila University had recently concluded their six-day immersion program with the townsfolk of Aurora province. The purpose of bringing in an "army" of privileged students, as Lagman puts it, is to make them realize the warmth, simplicity and joy even in poverty.

"OC is training the next generation. The Left was focused on anger and destruction; OC is about hope and rebuilding. I know the dynamics of the Movement. Today I am doing the movement of God," she said.

*E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph*

Sunday LIFESTYLE
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your ... message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'I said two things to the winner of the P150 million draw: Deposit the money in a Top 10 bank and do not change your lifestyle'

PCSO CHAIR SERGIO VALENCIA

# Charity begins with him

**PLAYTIME**
*By the Staff*

CHARITY IS SERGIO Osmeña Valencia's battle cry. The 57-year-old chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has, as of February this year, signed away P241 million to various hospitals and medical institutions across the country to help underprivileged patients *(see sidebar)*.

That is an enormous sum, but to Valencia, not nearly enough, given the country's crushing poverty and the lack of available medical care for those most in need of it.

"PCSO is mandated to assist in the medical needs of indigents depending on our income. So if we want to help more people, we must increase revenues," he says.

CHARITY/ D2

SEEN AT RUSTAN'S:

Rustan's
All The World Is Yours.

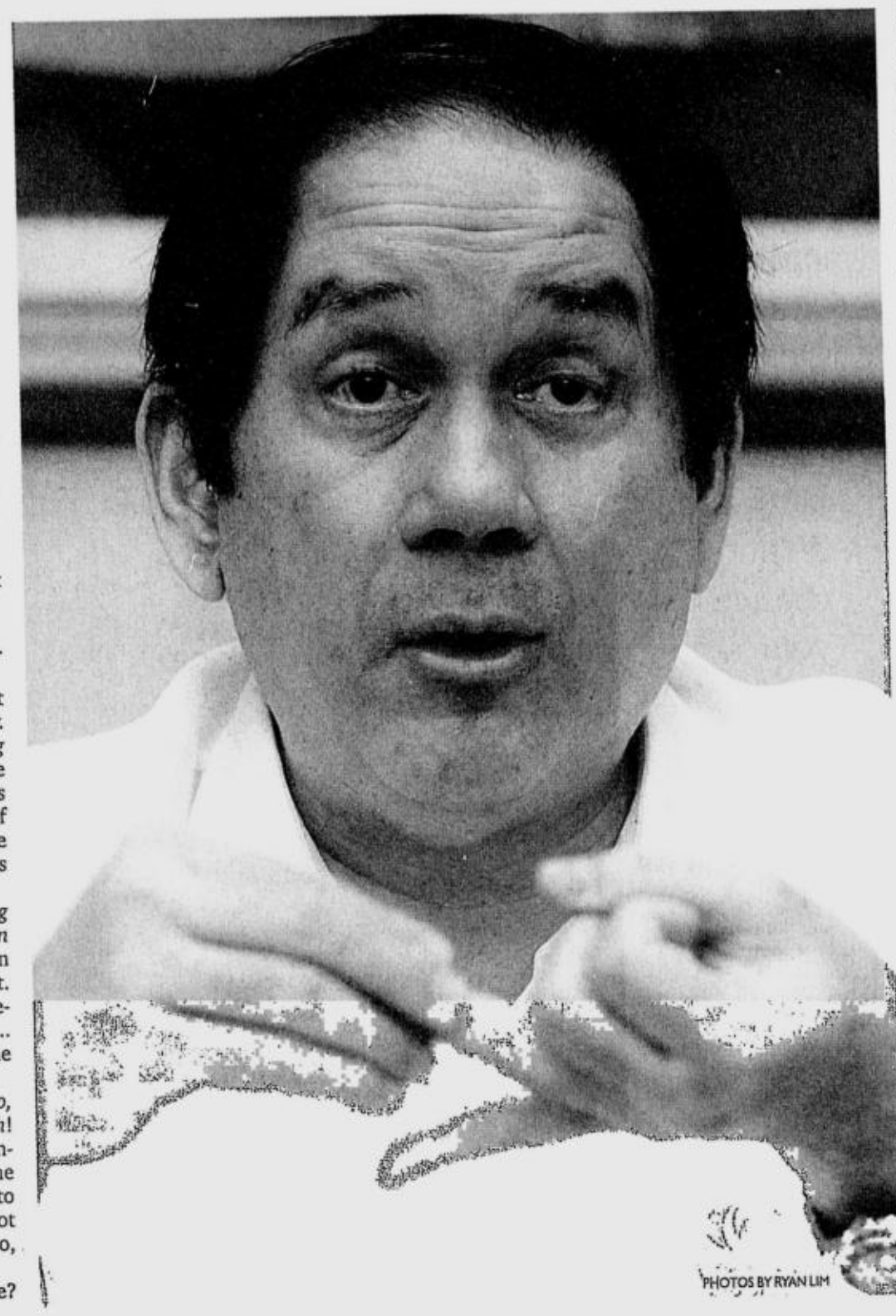
WE'LL SEE YOU THERE.

# Charity begins with him

From page D1

It's a tall order even for the tall, pleasant-faced Valencia whose background is in business, particularly real estate, and community services, through his wide and active participation in the Philippine and International Jaycees.

To be able to show the needy the money, Valencia encourages the public to patronize the lotto, the sweepstakes and the controversial STL (Small Town Lottery). He himself buys a lotto ticket every day. Has he ever won? Yes, he once won P5,000, he says. Not enough payback for a man who works from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. and hardly ever has time to "do lunch" outside the PCSO. When about 300 people mill around your office waiting for their vouchers so they can avail of dialysis or chemotherapy or medicine either for themselves or their loved ones, you need not just charity but also faith and hope to get through the day. Thankfully, Valencia is in no short supply of all three virtues.



PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

**For the first question, what are the next winning numbers?** (laughter)

I wish I knew! (laughter)

**Did you get to meet the winner of P150-million lotto draw?**

Yes, I had the privilege of meeting him. That was about a month ago. And it's a funny story. *Tinamaan niya Linggo*, so Tuesday, *tumatawag ang* GMA-7 and ABS. They wanted to cover the presentation of the check, but I told them that's *bawal*. We never show to the public the face of winner. What we do is we take a picture of the chairman giving the check to the person as proof that there was a winner.

When the office said, "Sir, *mukhang ito 'yung* winner," I immediately said, "*Itago mo, dalhin mo sa* office *ko, papunta na ako diyan.*" The man had taken a bus. He took out his winning ticket. *Tatlong* envelope, *eh*. *Paglabas*, another envelope, and then another, and then a plastic... *Pinatawag ko 'yung* accounting to check the ticket.

In the meantime, we had coffee. *Sabi ko*, "How do you feel?" He was shaking. *Ako rin, eh*! (Laughter) To make it short, it was a valid winning ticket. In 45 minutes, we gave him the check. I told him just two things. One, just try to deposit the money in a Top 10 bank, I will not mention names, *basta* PDIC-covered, and, two, do not change your lifestyle. (laughter)

**So you give all the winnings at one time? *Bahala na siya?***

Yes, and tax-free. Unlike in America and Canada, the PCSO pays the BIR about P1.7 billion a year on the revenues of documentary stamps. So that's our contribution to the BIR, P1.7 (billion).

**How much did he bet?**

P20. (laughter) *Pero* every day *tumataya siya* for four years. In the past years, *tumatama siya ng mga* P20,000. *'Yung mga* five-digits. On that day, Sunday, *kasama niya si misis, nanood ng* TV. After *ng* fifth digit, *sabi niya*, "*Tinamaan ko na naman 'yung* five digits." *Kasi* in the past *tumatama siya eh*. *'Yung pang-anim*, *'yon ang* jackpot, *nakuha niya*.

**Did he say what he planned to do with the money?**

Education. He has four kids *na hindi pa tapos*. So first thing for him is education.

**How old is he? What does he do?**

Forty-five. *Sa palengke*.

**Do you have a roster of services that can help winners like him? Give him ideas on how to deal with the money?**

When I came in, I noticed that most of the winners had to wait for 45 minutes to one hour while the check was being prepared. *Sabi ko*, why don't we come up with a DVD that could be played while the winners were waiting? It congratulates them and tells them what to do with the money in Tagalog, Bicolano, Bisaya, Ilocano... "Welcome and congratulations, you just won your jackpot. If you want to buy a house, you go to a licensed realtor, but before that, secure the services of a lawyer who is a member of the IBP in your town." Very simple. "Should you want to buy a car, you go to the nearest LTO, here's the number. If you want to buy land, go to the Registry of Deeds..." Once we give the money, we cannot interfere with how they spend it.

**What is the time period within which you should claim your winnings?**

You can claim it the next day. The charter of PCSO states that we give you one year. After one year, your prize goes back to the charity fund to help the poor.

The reason we ask that it be claimed here *para kung sino man ang tumama, taga*-Bicol, *taga*-Eastern Visayas, *malayo na 'yung pera, nandito. Minsan mabubuko eh*. Imagine, you're a farmer and you deposit in your rural bank, *sasabihin saan galing 'yang* P12 million? You can be a target for kidnapping, etc.

**Whoever presents the ticket, that's who you give the money to?**

Yeah. You know, a lotto ticket is just like money, a legal tender. *Kunwari may napulot kang* P500 *sa* Megamall, *sa 'yo na 'yan*. People are always requested to write their name on the back of the ticket. *Mayroon naman diyan sa* signature, *eh*. So it is earmarked for you. *Baliktarin mo*, you put your initials.

**Has there been an instance when somebody said he lost the ticket?**

*Marami. May tinatawag na* post-audit by the COA. We have to show where the money went. The winning ticket may be yours but you cannot claim it based on verbal assurance alone.

**But you can establish where the ticket was sold, right?**

Yeah, we can establish the time it was bought, the day it was bought, where it was bought.

**What is the biggest prize that's been won in the sweepstakes?**

P100 million.

> **You attend to a lot of sick and problematic people. Don't you get depressed?**
>
> 'Hindi. It makes me work harder. You know what? I have a self-imposed deadline: All of the documents on my table, I finish them on the same day simply because I want them all to be acted upon by tomorrow morning'

**Do you still have the Scratch-and-Match?**

Yes, we just finished it. It was very successful. We will reintroduce it but instead of cash, the prize is a house-and-lot. *Naubos na kasi*. Those tickets we bought from abroad. Those are very sensitive tickets. When you sell them to the agents, six months shelf life *lang*.

Actually, the Scratch-and-Match is what you call the Instant Sweepstakes in America. The old-style sweepstakes exist only in the Philippines and Spain. In Spain it's once a year. It's called El Gordo.

**Did we inherit the sweepstakes from Spain? Is that why we have the same system?**

Yeah, but the regular sweepstakes have been stopped. Even in Spain, El Gordo is only once a year.

**Are we also phasing out the sweepstakes completely?**

Well, it's making money and actually generates job. *Kasi 'yung* P10 ticket, *ibebenta natin sa* handicapped na less 30 percent. So it's job generation. *Mayroon pa rin* sweepstakes *pero kakaunti na. Mayroon sa simbahan*, grocery, basically *sa mga* lotto outlets.

**Do you sell them to organizations?**

We used to. But somehow, the public prefers the lotto. *'Yung* P10, *imbes na ibibili ng* sweepstakes, *itataya ngayong gabi. Kasi* by 9 p.m. on Channel 4, *alam mo na kung anong nanalo*.

**There must be a way to share the lotto operations with the handicapped now that sweepstakes sales are slow. How does it work?**

The lotto is highly computerized. So you don't need very many people. The lotto operator is an agent of the PCSO. Basically he takes care of looking for an 8-10-sq m place in a very populous area. *Kailangang walang baha, kailangan mayroong linya ng telepono*. We're very strict, 100 m *dapat* no church or house of worship, no schools. It should be about 150 m away from an existing lotto outlet. Why? Because, just like a *tindahan*, if you have a *tindahan* here and *didikitan mo*, they will average each other out. *Baka kayong dalawa malugi*. The equipment is provided by PCSO. Also the maintenance.

**So there is no big investment?**

It's not an investment, it's a bond—P500,000. The local operators are mandated to deposit their earnings the next day. And the bond is just to make sure they have faithful compliance of making the daily deposit. Otherwise, we give them one day to deposit to the nearest Landbank or PNB branch, less expenses or winnings *na binabayad*.

**How do they earn from the operation?**

Five percent of gross. We normally look at a figure of about P400,000 a month *para mayroon siyang* P20,000. Anything lower than that may not be worth the labor. *Kami naman*, aside from the equipment and the paper that we use, we pay for the PLDT connection, which is about P10,000 a month. The connection that we use is not a telephone line. It is a fiber-optic line. It doesn't carry voice, it carries information. So *'pag nalugi siya, lugi rin tayo*.

**What's the Small Town Lottery (STL)?**

It's another product. Republic Act 1169 mandates us to raise revenues through lotteries for health, medical and charity needs, in that general sense. So anything *na may bola*, game of chance, that's lottery. Pagcor is gaming, *'yun ang pinagkaiba*. We stop with lottery. So what's lottery? Sweepstakes is lottery, bingo is lottery, STL is lottery. What is gaming? Slot machine is gaming. So that gives us the authority to run STL, which was introduced in the time of President Aquino, *pero hininto?* It is actually a numbers game very similar to the *jueteng*, but not quite. *Jueteng* was an underground production all the way.

**Mayor (Edward) Hagedorn claims it can generate jobs locally. How will that happen?**

First of all, unlike the illegal game, this is under the PCSO. Second, *ito talaga binobola*. Hagedorn is a self-confessed former operator in Palawan. According to him, the *jueteng* per se, *hindi nila binobola*. They look at the odds, *pinapatama nila pero walang tunay na tambiolo*. And the people are willing to bet against the *hao siao*. Three, the *munisipyo* will do the raffle. Everybody can watch it, three times a day, at 12 noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. *Ang magpapatakbo ng* STL is a private corporation duly registered with the SEC, and the primary articles of incorporation will be for lottery, so very legal. Meaning to say, taxable *yung* income.

*Kami naman sa kikitain ng* STL, we pay 5 percent gross. So, for every billion, we pay P50 million. The BIR is going to be able to tax, which is good for government. And the employees of the STL will now have to have their TIN, whereas before they never had to pay taxes.

**You don't mind the additional work?**

It is added income for us, more resources for charity. You know, every year, *ang ating*

## If you need medical assistance fro

SHOW UP AT THE PCSO with these original documents (no photocopies, please):

1. Letter of request addressed to Chairman Sergio O. Valencia asking for medical assistance from either the patient or close of kin;
2. Clinical Abstract, including full name and signature of the doctor and his license number;
3. Statement of Account with signature over printed name of billing officer.

If you need medicine, here are the requirements of the PC

1. Letter of request
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2. Original or certi
Medical Abstract duly
ing physician with lic
3. Prescription duly
physician with costing

The PCSO building
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*pasyente*, especially for cancer, *tumataas*. Unfortunately, *ang tinatamaan mas madalas 'yung mas mahirap* and they come to us. *'Yan ang ating* mandate. Normally, we do not give the money to the patients, we give the drugs. Based on the medical abstract of a cancer patient, for example, we evaluate. Depending on the stage of the cancer, *iba-iba ang* combination *ng* chemo so *iba-iba ang* costing, depending on the medical abstract *ng* doctor. Different mixture equals different pricing, so we give the guarantee letter to the patient, she goes to the drugstore nearest to her house, surrenders the guarantee letter and goes home with the chemo drug.

***Maraming mawawalan ng trabaho* if *jueteng* is abolished. What will happen to them?**

According to Social Welfare Secretary Lualhati Pablo, *talagang huminto 'yung jueteng*. Luzon-wide, *ang naapekto mga* 200,000. These are heads of the family so, multiplying that, it affects close to 1 million people... With the entry of STL, that provincial company now will hire the people who were displaced. They will have to wear PCSO IDs, *magkakaroon ng* TIN, it becomes legal.

**Do you go to an outlet and bet there?**

*Hindi, walang* computer. House to house *parin*. *'Yung kubrador* is now called an agent and he will be wearing a PCSO ID. *Siya pa rin ang papasok sa kasuluk-sulukan*.

**Is there no resistance from the *jueteng* operators?**

*Alam mo* the success of the STL is very much dependent on the death of *jueteng*. Both cannot exist side by side. We are giving an alternative that is legal, *may* taxation.

Here's another difference. *Sa jueteng*, from what I hear—*kasi* I've never been involved with that—*ang kumikita daw 'yung* operator, *Dito, 'yung* charity component 30 percent. Every time we sell a ticket, a percentage goes directly to the town for its charity programs, the province also gets 5 percent, and the PNP also has a share. So the charity component will be given every month. Patients won't have to go all the way to PCSO. *Kailangan mo ng gamot, kailangan mo ng* operation, *nandoon na sa* town *mo ang* funding.

**Funds will be at the mayor's discretion?**

Yes, the mayor. For use for health and medical necessities.

**How will you get the mayors to buy into your operation if they are personally not going to gain anything?**

We are offering a good product that will not only help their towns but the country as well. *Kasi ang jueteng po* is just for Luzon. *Wala sa* Mindanao *'yan*. Mindanao is *hao siao*. *Hanggang* Romblon *lang 'yan*. Once you hit Iloilo, you're talking of *mashao*, a three-digit game. But imagine the taxation you can get out of this.

**You don't think it will only encourage more corruption?**

The money is given not to the person but to the organization. That's why we appeal to everybody, this is your chance to have a legitimate numbers game.

**Do you really foresee STL as the means to wipe out *jueteng*?**

Let's make this very clear. The task force that was created to wipe out jueteng is the task force of Mayor Hagedorn. *Hindi kami*. We are only here to introduce a kind of lottery with the STL. It's an option... All we know is that the STL went through a Commission on Audit study. It went to the government corporate counsel, to make sure that all of this is within the mandate of RA 1169.

**How does the Church react to this since it's still gambling?**

I would like to believe that some bishops look at it as lotto. It's lottery. As I've always said, you can never go broke with P10. And there is a 30-percent charity component immediately, which the *jueteng* does not have. *Pang-ambulansya, pang*-chemo, all of that. As a matter of fact, we give endowments to hospitals. We give it to the hospital and *lahat ng tao na nangangailangan ng* hospitalization, when they go there, the hospital charges it to the endowment. *Para hindi na pabalik-balik 'yung pasyente dito*.

**Who determines who gets help from the hospital's endowments?**

*Mayroong* social worker. *Kasi* we have to make sure that, one, he's really indigent. Two, *na talagang nandoon siya sa ospital*... We don't give endowment *na biglaan*. It's given in four installments for one year... Everybody can go to any hospital endowed
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**So how many docu
day?**

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## PCSO endowments to ho

THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES Office (PCSO) has allocated a total of P241,780,000 in endowment funds to medical institutions all over the country as of February.

Beneficiary institutions draw from these funds to provide assistance to indigent patients in their care.

Leading the list of beneficiaries is the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc., which runs a hospital for the poor on Coastal Road in Parañaque City. The project of two Ramon Magsaysay Award winners, Fr. James Reuter and Sr. Eva Fidela Maamo, SPC (a medical doctor by training), it received P60 million.

The Philippine General H
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P29,500,000, while the
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Outside the National
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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## spitals

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CR received the largest
81,920,000. It was fol-
ral Luzon),
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of 10 people who follow up, *kulang ang* documents. That's why it's good for media to say that the documents you present to us must all be original. *Kung minsan kumpleto pero* Xerox *lang, hindi puwede. Hindi tatanggapin ng* COA. So if you give us all the necessary original documents , seven working days *tapos 'yan.* Now, if it's very critical, we will try to fast-track it.

**What do you do for fun?**

I brisk-walk at 5 a.m. *Pag* five o'clock *kasi 'yung hangin malinis pa.* I go three kilometers. It's good exercise. I don't have time to go to the gym.

**Where do you do this?**

Greenhills. Then I'm here in the office at 7 a.m.

**But you don't work on weekends, right?**

I do. (Laughter) I have a Nike bag for overnight work. Like now, I have to go to Malacañang later. I'm sure by 5 p.m. *andiyan pa ang mga* papers, *iuuwi ko 'yan.* There may be some documents that require immediate attention.

**When is family day?**

Sunday. I work in the house *na lang.*

**But do you make it a point to take vacations? To recharge?**

*Kapag* semestral break *ng mga bata* we go to Baguio, Boracay.

**At least you've been to Boracay. (Laughter)**

By the way, speaking of Boracay, that's the No. 1 resort in the Philippines, your No. 1 dollar-earner. I'm very happy to tell you that we approved last week the grant of P1.2 million for Boracay's very first X-ray machine.

**But why do you have to provide that when there are all those beach-resort operators?**

Well, actually, the hospital is managed by the province, Aklan. But if they have no budget, they have to come to us. Hopefully by May it will be ready.

**Are you developing a new product?**

We are introducing the Scratch, as we said. *Sa* America *ang tawag dyan,* Instant Sweepstakes, which is No. 1 now. If you don't win it, *ida*-drop *mo sa para sa bola.* You may win a house and lot.

***Pero parang sa mga* Ministop and 7-Eleven *lang binibili mga iyon?***

It's impulse buying. So *'pag nagpagasolina ka, mayroon kang* change, *bibili ka.*

**Do you often get complaints about the lotto from the moral guardians?**

Yeah, some but we have a mandate. Until Republic Act 1169 is repealed or amended, it's the law.

**Are there places that have refused to have a lotto outlet?**

Yeah. *Kapag tinignan mo, kung saan konti ang* lotto outlets, *alam mo na 'yun.* (laughter)

**If you're an operator, you get 5 percent of the daily gross? And if someone wins...?**

As they say in Tagalog, *nagpatama ka,* you will get a certificate. *Iyon ang pinakaimportante.* And then, *mayroon kaming* scale. You will get a minimum of P150,000 to a maximum of P500,000. Like *iyong nagpatama ng* P150 million, he got P500,000. With the diploma attesting *nagpatama ka* you can boost your sales.

**My confidentiality clause *din po ba 'yung* operator not to divulge *'yung* identity *ng* winner?**

*Malalaman niya* eventually *na siya nagpatama kasi malalaman ng* computer. We ask them not to divulge.

**What is your most memorable episode relating to winners?**

Six months ago, *kumatok ang* treasury, *sabi* "Sir, winner." *Pumasok siya,* around 21 years old. He was with a younger man. So *sabi ko,* "Where did you buy your ticket?" *Sabi nya* Gaisano, Mandaue. *"O,* Cebuano *ka, dong?" sabi ko.* "You won the prize two weeks ago, why are you coming only now?" "Sir, I had to borrow money for the airfare." First time [to come to Manila]. *"Niloko pa kami ng* taxi, *inikot kami sa* UP!" *Ang layo,* from Cebu Pacific!

**How much did he win?**

P12 million. First time *niya pumuntang* Manila, *dala pa niya kapatid niya. Talagang* first time, first time *sumakay ng eroplano.*

**Has someone given you *balato*?**

*Noong hindi pa ako* chairman. *Kasi* my wife (TV personality Tina Revilla, with whom he has two children, Julio and Jordana) was hosting the lotto, *ano?* So years ago, I picked up my wife because it was a Sunday. So while waiting, one of the managers here won P5 million. *Nilapitan ako. Sabi nya, "Bosing, i*-dinner *mo si misis, nanalo ako sa* lotto." He gave me P5,000.

**But now you're not allowed to accept a *balato*?**

Ah, no. That was 12 years ago! (laughter)

**But even employees can join the lotto?**

Oh, yeah. I buy every day P100.

***Pero paano kapag nanalo ka, hindi kaya ma*-question?**

*Hindi,* legitimate *naman, eh. Ang gagawin ko, isusulat ko ang pangalan ko!* (laughter) *Akin 'yan!*

**Is there's no way to cheat in the lotto?**

No, you cannot. You know, every night, on Channel 4 , we have the management observer. We have the NBI. We have the Commission on Audit. We have the internal audit. And it's open to the public. Anybody who wants to come. That is the difference between the PCSO and the *jueteng. Sila hindi natin alam* if *binobola. Sabi nga ni* Hagedorn, *walang bola.*

**Didn't Tina host the lotto draw on TV?**

She started it.

**So *dalawa kayo sa* lotto!**

No, no, no, when I came in, she resigned.

**Ahhh... *pero* she was with lotto, and now you. How often does something like that happen? Have you ever won?**

*Mga* P5,000. *Ang tinatayaan ko mga* birthday *ng anak ko, eh.* (laughter) *Ang tawag doon alaga.* Every day.

**But you can ramble over the numbers?**

*'Yun ang nananalo!* They call it lucky pick. *Ayaw mo mag-isip,* go lucky pick. Let the computer decide. One to 42, 1 to 45, *tapos* 1 to 49. *Yung* 1 to 49 *ay tinatawag na* Megalotto. *Iyon ang tumatama nang malaki,* around P150 million.

'Basta kumpleto, mabilis. Nine out of 10 people who follow up, kulang ang documents ... if you give us all the necessary original documents, seven working days tapos 'yan'


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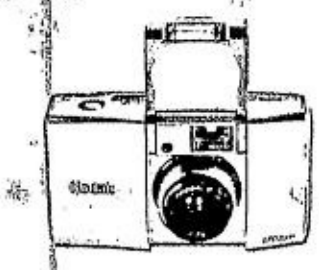

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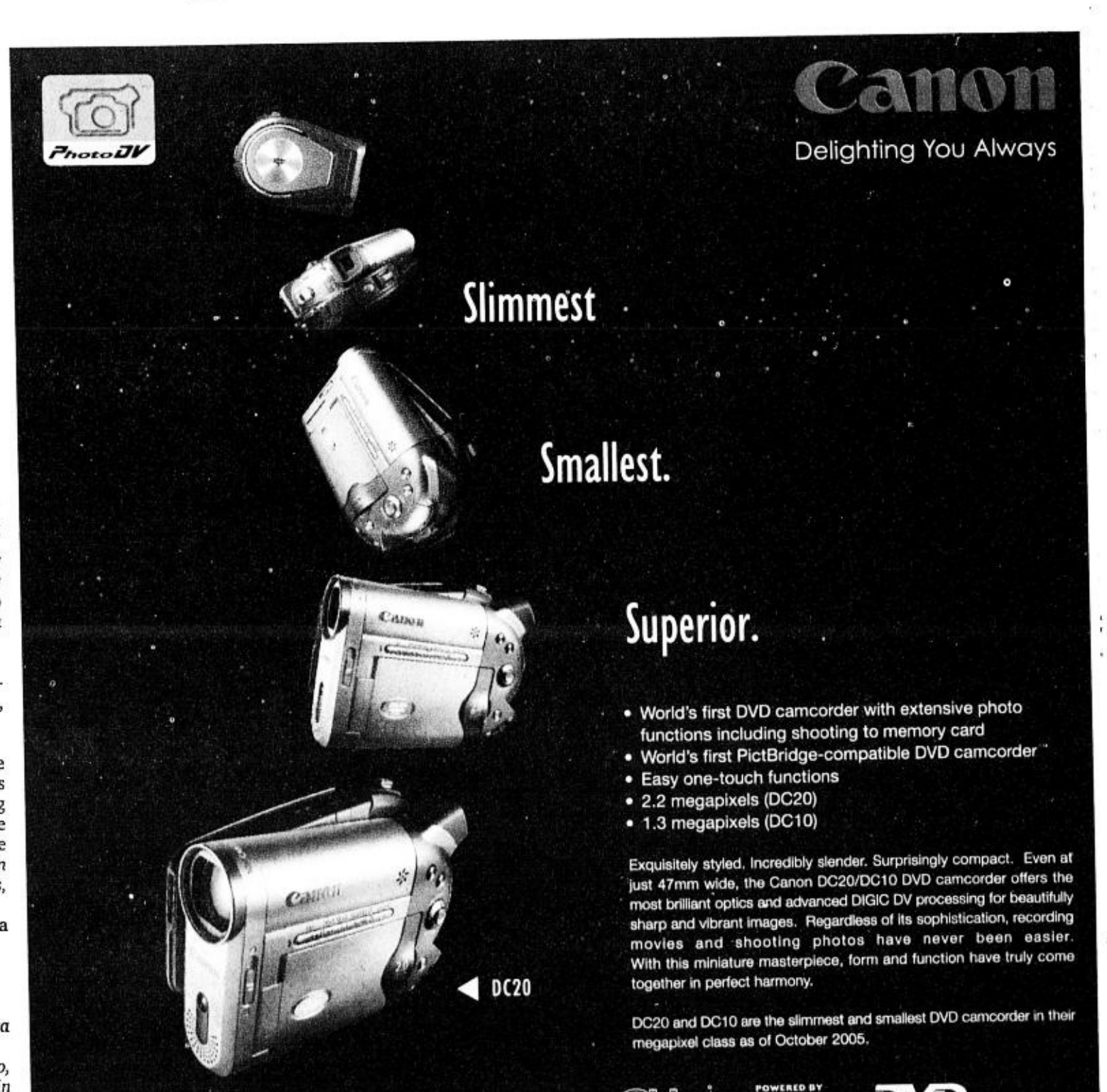


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# Drink up this summer

THREE cheers for Coke and Bench.

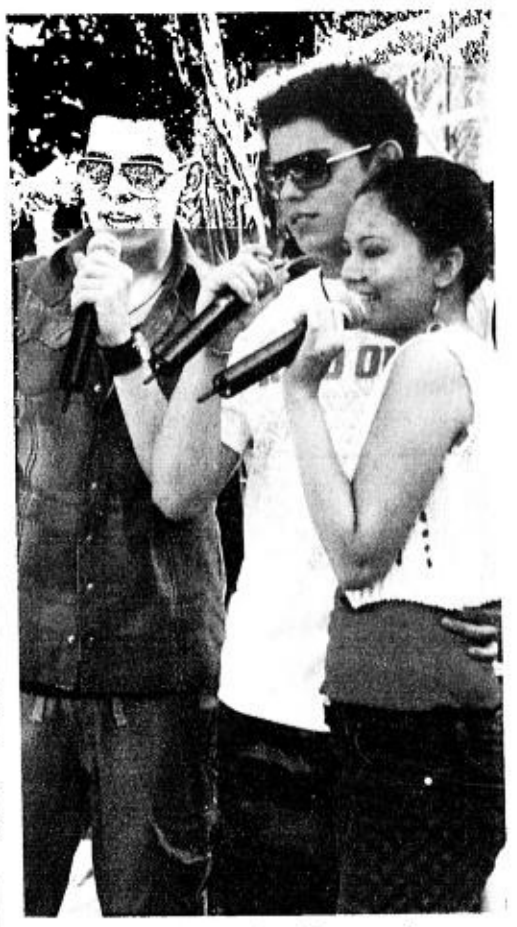
COKE AND SUMMER HAVE always gone hand-in-hand.

This year, Coke welcomed the hot, sunny days live on noontime show "SOP." They took over Baywalk in Roxas Boulevard, where huge bottles of Coke dominated the stage and bright red banners lined the bay, all declaring Coke's summer battle cry: "*Buksan ang* summer!"

SOP Gigsters Raymond Gutierrez and Chynna Ortaleza hosted the event, which had a fashion show featuring the hottest summer outfits from Bench. Board shorts, mini skirts, tank tops and tees in white and bright summer colors ruled, complemented by the striking red Coke bandanas worn in different ways. The colorful Coke Summer image was also tattooed or painted on the models' bodies.

Kiko Machine entertained the crowds with the latest Coke song, "Coke Buksan ang Summer." Brownbeat All Stars also performed live. Of course, ice-cold Coke flowed, keeping the crowds refreshed throughout the day. Lucky people also got Coke bandanas, visors and T-shirts.

Seen revealing their summer selves were some of GMA's brightest stars: MTV VJ KC Montero; on-screen and off-screen leading love team Dingdong Dantes and Karylle; award-winning dramatic actor Dennis Trillo; "Love to Love's" Julia Clarete; R&B princess Kyla; "Pinoy Pop Superstar" grand prize winner Jonalyn Viray; and "Starstruck" survivors Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras, Rainier Castillo, Yasmien Kurdi, Marky Cielo and Jacky Rice.



BENCH twins Richard and Raymond Gutierrez and SOP Gigster Chynna Ortaleza

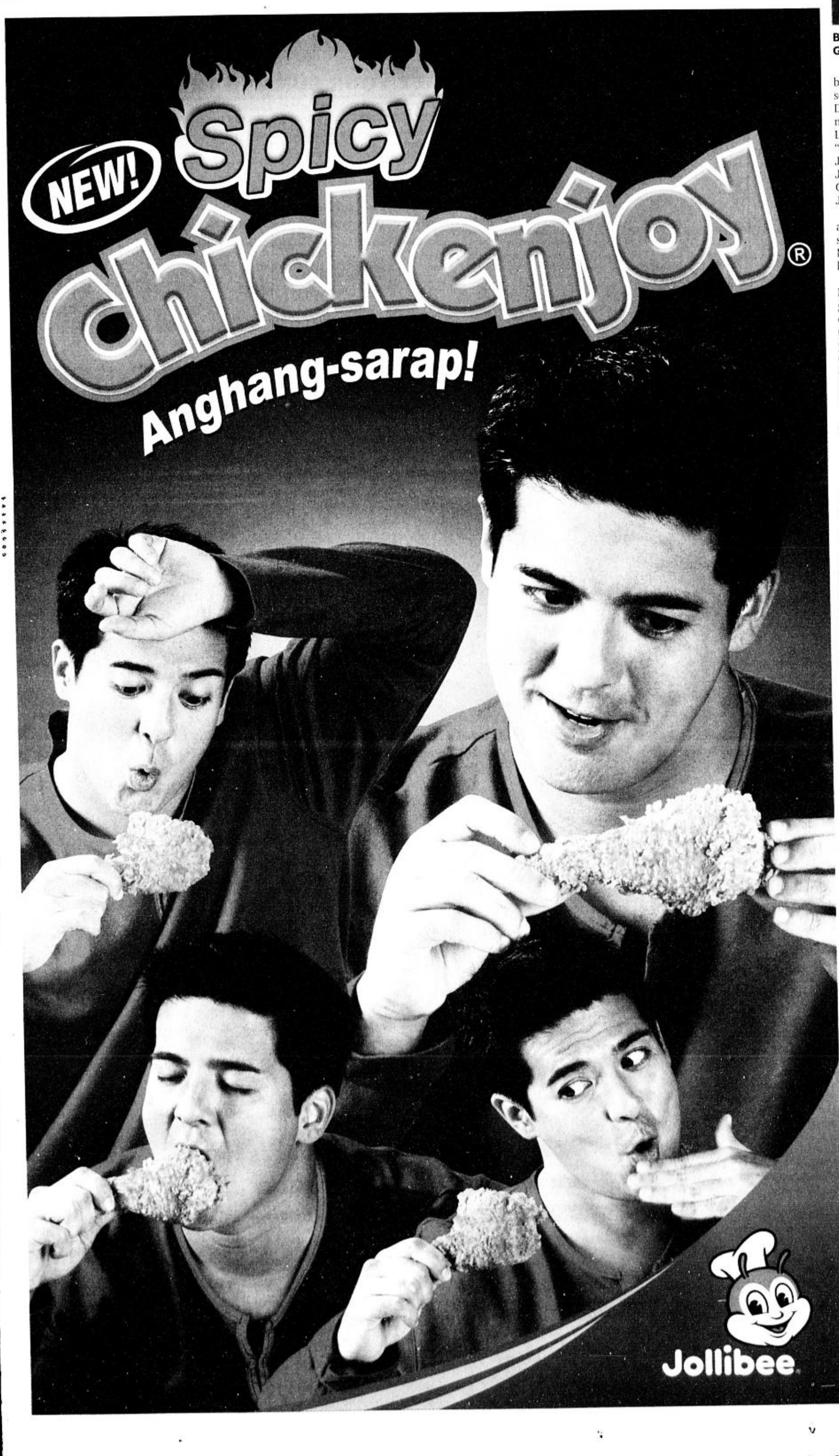
Coke has a whole lineup of fun, exciting activities all summer long. Globe subscribers, for example, can text COKESUMMER to 2332 for a free ringback download.

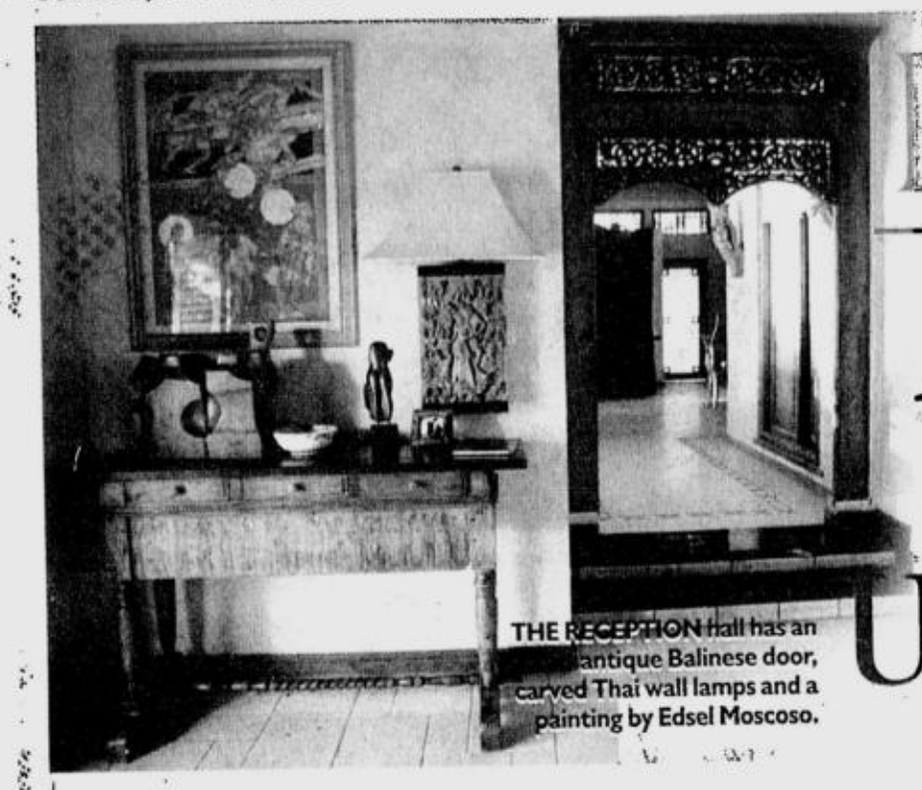
Then there's the non-stop party with MTV in Boracay April 20-22. You can even get there for free! Just send in any 10 Coke crowns with your name, age, contact details and signature to the MTV office and you might win a package for you and four of your friends. That includes airfare, 5-day, 4-night accommodations, P30,000 pocket money and special VIP passes to the Coke Summer Break events.

LADIES in red: The Coca-Cola Export Corporation's Yasmin Mallari, Allie dela Cruz and Teejae Sonza

COKE'S Chinky Alcedo with Polly Avecilla and Luis Barluan

MISS International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman graces the event.





THE RECEPTION hall has an antique Balinese door, carved Thai wall lamps and a painting by Edsel Moscoso.

# *Moscoso's* The Unfinished

Story on page E2

MADURA console table holds a 12th-century Burmese terra-cotta Buddha. Behind is an antique Thai temple gable.

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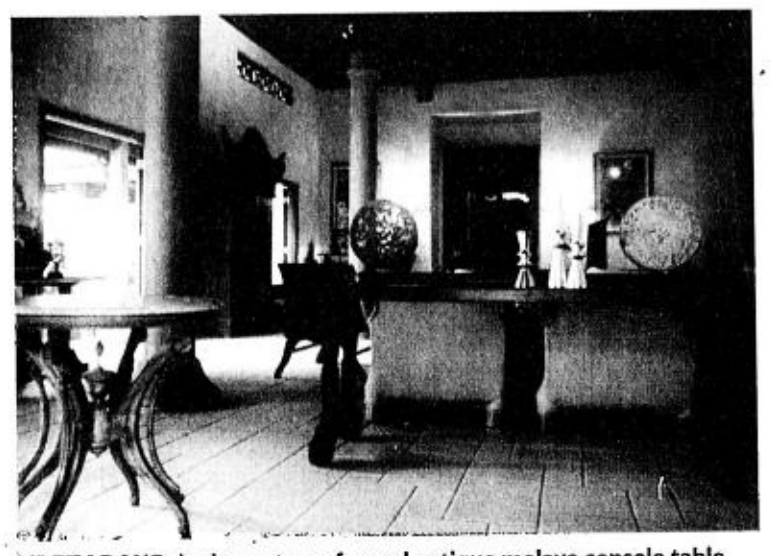


YREZABAL'S single-seater sofas and antique molave console table from Bohol displays two jadeite dishes on metal stands. Floor's Italian tiles simulate French antique limestones.

AT THE COMMON area leading up to the guest lounge are paintings by Angelito Antonio and oil abstract paintings by Federico Aguilar Alcuaz. The teak-paneled libation area on the right displays an' antique 18th-century Shan Dynasty alabaster Buddha. Under the stairs is a Dutch Indochinese armoire.

ANTIQUE *dao* stairs to the library are recycled from an old Spanish house. Railings are recycled old molave wood with *kamagong*. On specially built pedestals are two antique Chinese porcelain jars and on the wall is Marcel Antonio's painting "Cigarette."

# *Moscoso's* The Unfinished

IN ANOTHER part of the library is an oil painting of a "café" by Pedro Felix Garcia and an antique jar decorated with mice partially hidden by an earthenware pot with an orchid.

DOUBLE-HEIGHT ceiling creates a dramatic effect for the kitchen with its stainless-steel ducting by Fullweld Company for the cooktop ventilation, hob and freestanding oven by Smeg and cabinetry supplied by V. Roque Enterprises. The countertops are solid dark-green granite.

By Linda B. Bolido

THE HOUSE IS AN ART gallery, or maybe it is a gallery that is also a house.

But what else can one expect from an artist? And so the five-year project painter Edsel Moscoso undertook in his native San Jose, Antique for his mother has become a showcase not only of the artist's own works but various *objets d'art* he has picked up here and there.

Moscoso says he has made it the repository for at least five of his major works that have never been shown elsewhere.

But if the place is a repository for artwork, it is also very much a work of art, fusing seamlessly Filipino and Balinese architectural principles, with a little Thai and other Southeast Asian influences thrown in.

Structurally, the complex (for it is not just one structure) is almost complete but it will probably remain "unfinished." Moscoso says putting the finishing touches will probably take forever.

He expects that he will constantly add a piece here or change an item there; move, rearrange, reduce and pretty much keep the whole project mobile.

As his mother, who lived just long enough to see the completion of the main pavilion where she would have lived, has passed on, Moscoso now plans to turn it into an artists' retreat, an idea he got from visits to artists' communities abroad, specifically Yugoslavia.

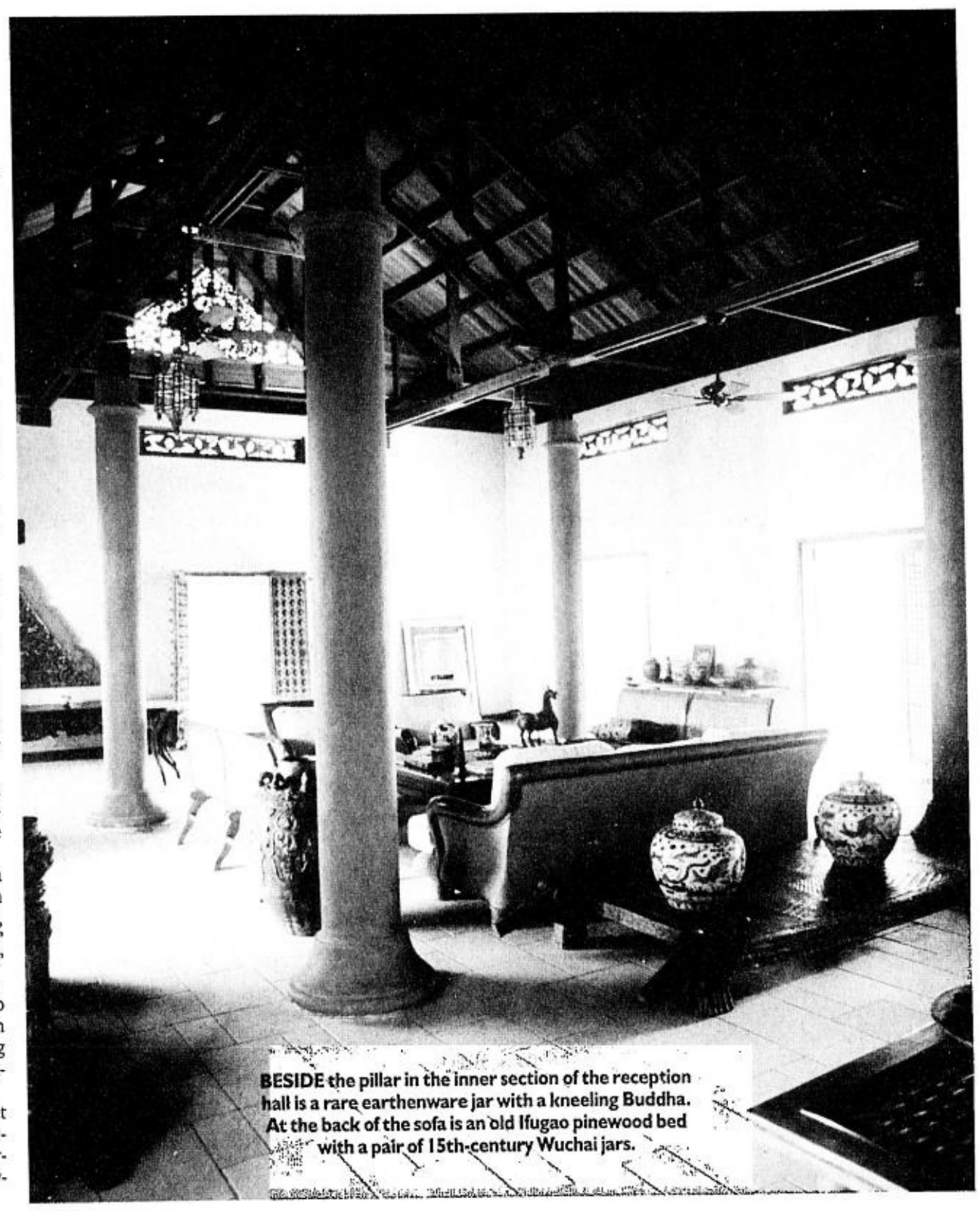
In the meantime, the complex, which also includes a garage, guest house with steam bath, a glorietta overlooking the sea, dining pavilion and servants' quarters, is still the exclusive pleasure of close friends.

For the landscape, Moscoso decided to get some lofty perspective. His *mananguete* (a *tuba* gatherer) has been doing much of the garden work with some input from the artist every now and then.

Moscoso says the guy seems to have "a better aesthetic sense than me." That's probably because he gets a better overview of the lay of the land from his perch on top of a coconut tree when he collects *tuba*.

The garden is now filled with ti, teak, *kalachuchi*, New Guinea creeper, some 12 varieties of palms, aglaonema and flowering plants. There is also a herb garden which Moscoso's professional cook, who specializes in Italian-Mediterranean cuisine, must find particularly useful.

ARAAL pavers complement the terra-cotta library walls. An antique *delantera* from Bohol holds funerary Han Dynasty clay figures of warriors on lucite stands, green celadon plates and blue-and-white cookie jars. Partially seen is an oil painting by Dominador Castañeda and an abstract collage by Jimmy Tan.



BESIDE the pillar in the inner section of the reception hall is a rare earthenware jar with a kneeling Buddha. At the back of the sofa is an old Ifugao pinewood bed with a pair of 15th-century Wuchai jars.

The artist says putting the finishing touches to his not-so-little house by the sea may take forever

ELEVATED garden pavilion overlooks the main garden with its luxuriant growth of plants, the rays of the early morning sun pierce the canopy of trees.

# Learn bonsai-making

BONSAI, THE ART OF dwarfing plants, is already known worldwide among hobbyists as a therapeutic hobby. In many other countries, bonsai-growing is also a profitable industry.

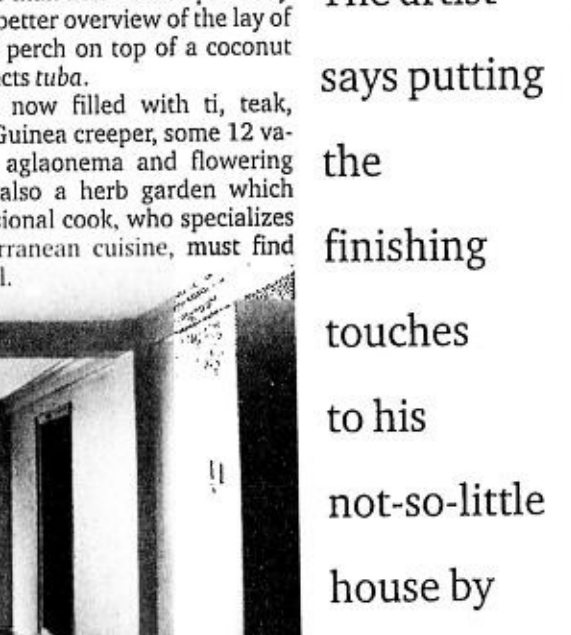
Those who are interested to learn bonsai-making may register with either Liza or Melba at Mett's Plant Arts, Flower Mart, Manila Seedling Bank cor. Edsa and Quezon Ave., QC.

The seminar, to be conducted by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla, will held April 28-30, 1-6 p.m., at Mett's seminar room, King Louis Garden Center, also at the Seedling Bank.

Topics to be discussed are: 1) meaning and origin of bonsai and identification of plants, tools, containers, potting medium and other materials; 2) styling, shaping, wiring, pruning, repotting; 3) techniques of propagation; and 4) care and maintenance.

One plant material for the hands-on workshop will be provided, together with pruning scissors, bonsai pot, potting medium, wires, moss, etc. Snacks, handouts and a certificate will also be provided.

Call 9394593, 4352479, 0917-8321352. E-mail mettsplants@yahoo.com.



*SANTAN*, estimated to be about 20 years old, cultured as bonsai

# Detergent for bug infestation

By Serapion Metilla

**SOME OF MY PLANTS, PARTICULARLY the guava, have plenty of white insects on top and under the leaves. When touched, some of them fly away while others stay. What are they and how do I treat them?**

GREEN TIPS

I suspect they are white flies, since they fly away when touched. Those that remain are remnants or detached body parts. The plants do not only look ugly and sickly but, in the long run, they die.

White flies do not eat the leaves but just suck the moisture from the body of plants. Plants that become heavily infested become dehydrated and die.

Other white insects are the mealy bugs and scales. The mealy bugs have cotton-like appearance and usually occupy the undersides of leaves. The scales, on the other hand, look like dandruff that stick to on top of and under stems and leaves.

Mealy bugs and scales do not move so they have a symbiotic relationship with ants that help them transfer from one place to another. In return, mealy bugs and scales give the sweet food ants like.

These insects are easy to eradicate. Just spray a solution of Malathion on all affected parts, at least three times, once every two days. Should you want earth-friendly treatment, use a thick solution of detergent allowing the mixture to form suds on all parts of the plant. Rinse with clean water after an hour using a syringe. This can be repeated twice or three times, once every three days.

*E-mail the author at mettplants@yahoo.com*

PHILIPS 50" Pixel Plus 2 Plasma TV

# Flat TV unlike any other

OWNERS OF A PHILIPS flat TV swear by a viewing experience marked by breathtaking natural pictures, superb sound reproduction, multipurpose convenience, and the most modern and top-quality full-digital high-definition connection.

Philips 50" Pixel Plus 2 Plasma TV pushes picture quality to the unprecedented viewing comfort of ambilight and plasma technologies.

According to Philips marketing communications manager Tetet Songco, "Pixel Plus is a digital processing feature that improves the resolution of still and moving pictures. This technology does more than add pixels; it also makes the pixels better for ultimate sharpness and incredible picture depth every time from every source. It improves not only the resolution but also the color reproduction, resulting in the finest color details and superior brilliance."

Similarly, the state-of-the-art plasma screen technology enables brilliant flicker-free picture to come with optimum brightness and superb colors, creating sharp and vibrant imagery.

On the other hand, the full-color ambilight offers a unique ambiance via a soft glow of light on the wall surrounding the TV. The development of this technology was based on research showing that ambient lighting could improve and relax TV viewing.

"At the same time, Philips invented Digital Natural Motion to correct and eliminate the visible juddering of moving picture content in both broadcast and movie material. Thus, smooth motion reproduction and excellent sharpness are the results," Songco adds.

Philips flat TV boasts of a virtual Dolby Surround processing circuitry that enhances cinema surround sound effect without the need for rear speakers, and a full dual screen that enables viewers to watch simultaneously two different channels, either two programs or any combination through Teletext and/or NextView.

The advanced Teletext feature is based on another new technology with navigation functions that enable a viewer to determine the channel of a TV program by typing a word using the remote control.

All these features are unlike those of other flat TV brands on the market, making Philips the leader in the technology race.

# Father and son, tech and music

AFTER A LONG RUN AS ONE OF THE MOST successful names in music, the Walkman brand has now transitioned to the mobile world with the recent introduction of the Sony Ericsson Walkman phones.

To mark the successful crossover, Sony Ericsson has chosen parent-offspring pairs to represent the generations whose lives have been enriched by these portable devices, first as exclusive music players and now, in the age of convergence, as multifunctional mobile phones.

One such pair is the father-and-son tandem of Nonoy and Ige Gallardo, who enjoy doing the same things—and doing different things at the same time—like running an advertising agency as a day job and writing music in the bathroom.

Ige, the son, writes songs and, on occasion, sings backup for his sister's band, Hong Kong Holiday. He also writes jingles for advertising clients, plays drums, and boxes.

Nonoy Gallardo, the father, is the advertising veteran from Basic and Creative Partners, now with Gasso, which he founded, and is the composer of the classics "Saranggola ni Pepe" and "Tuliro."

Indeed, much of life in the Gallardo home revolves around music. Ige's mother is the iconic singer Celeste Legaspi. Nonoy's children say they remember him singing to them when they were young.

"My dad was always playing jazz records in the house," recalls Ige. The son admits his musical tastes have been influenced in part by his father, whom he credits for introducing the Gallardo siblings to the Beatles and to music of other cultures including those of Africa and Russia. Despite his father's incessant playing of jazz records, Ige's musical tastes are far-ranging. "Eclectic," says the son of his musical tastes. "Music I can't relate to," quips the father.

Of the advertising campaigns that he has crafted, Nonoy considers Cosmos' Bagong Tunog as the most memorable. Perhaps because it brought advertising and music together. For the campaign, Nonoy collaborated with Ryan Cayabyab to harness the music of *kulintangs* and *gangsas* to create "bagong tunog," which he describes as "a sound that is distinctly Filipino for a Filipino brand." The campaign not only triggered an image turnaround for the brand but also contributed to the emergence of a distinct Filipino identity in music.

Nonoy is now 66 but he doesn't look it ("Attitude 'yun, attitude," he explains with a casual wave of his hand). He had his first Sony Ericsson in 2000, and still has it. His second he also treasures for "the calendar, the handwriting, the stylus, the reminders, the jotter, and, of course, the camera," which comes in handy when he's traveling.

These days, Ige, associate creative director at Gasso, is excited about the new Sony Ericsson

SONY Ericsson W900i (left) and W810i

W810i and the music—from Blondie to Van Halen—that he can play on it, depending on his mood.

Ige admits technology plays a very big part in his life, but he does not describe himself as a techie: "I like to be aware of the latest, but I don't necessarily want to grab it."

But he'd love to handle a cell phone account in Gasso: "It'd be like selling lifestyle, it'll be a fun account." And one just as challenging as any in his work—"A combination of visual stimulation, writing and marketing. You're not just an artist, you're also a salesperson. And I enjoy doing that more than being a painter or musician."

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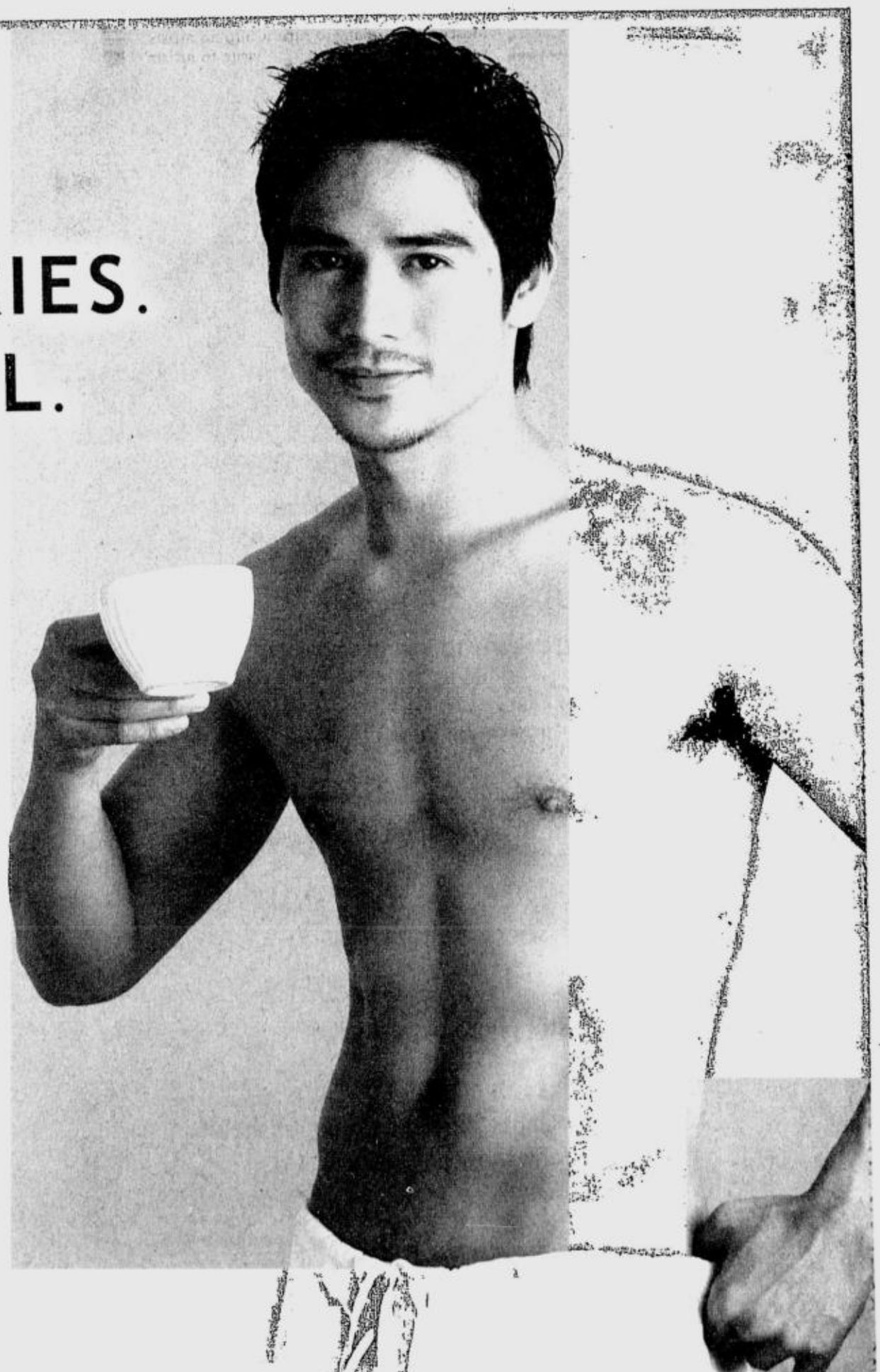

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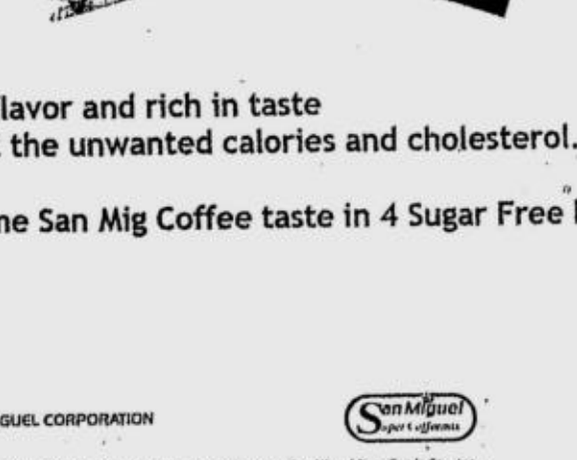


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# A fun-filled Easter celebration at SM

## Egg-citing events await you and your family at SM Supermalls this Easter Sunday, April 16!

Paint an Easter egg
Papier maché egg painting contest
On-the-spot escayola egg painting*

Easter bunny costume contest
Register early to join this activity

Caricature corner
Take home a drawing of your child as a souvenir*

Eggster's choice
Guess the number of egg-shaped chocolates in the jar*

Egghunt, treats & games
In selected Luzon malls

Hop-py moments
Easter photo opportunity*

Kids' shows
Magic show, Puppet show, Ventriloquist show*
(one show per mall)

WOW! MAGIC MICROPHONE

* in selected malls

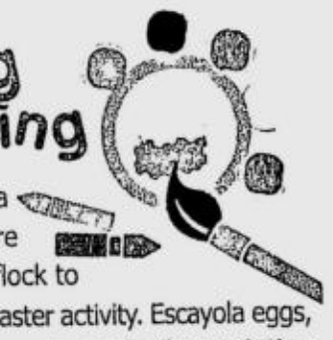
All dressed up for the occasion with hopping bunnies, colorfully painted eggs, contests and rows of activity booths, SM Supermalls is the coolest Easter break destination. While other family members go shopping, kids (with moms and dads) have a hopping good time exploring the activity areas for Easter gimmicks.

### Easter Bunny Costume Contest

The contest is open to the first 50 kid registrants ages 3 to 9 years old. The winners will be chosen (5 girls, 5 boys) based on creativity, projection and audience impact.

Winners will receive a total of P20,000 worth of SM Gift Cards (P2,000 each) and gift packs from contest sponsors.

### Egg Painting



Kids with a flair for art are expected to flock to this popular Easter activity. Escayola eggs, aprons, watercolor and other painting materials are provided.

### Eggster's Choice

Kids are invited to guess the number of egg-shaped mini chocolates contained in a big jar. Each of the five winners takes home the equivalent number of mini chocolates in the jar.

### Balloon Twisting

A balloon twister artist will be there to entertain the Easter mallers with balloon flowers, bunnies, other animals and many more fun shapes. Kids may take home the balloons as souvenirs.

### Caricature Corner

Two guest cartoonists are on hand to draw your child's face! Take home these artworks as souvenirs of their fun Easter visit to SM Supermalls.

### Hop-py Moments

Easter backdrops with die-cut holes provide kids with the fun props where they can stick their hands and heads in the holes for souvenir shots, courtesy of KODAK / FUJIFILM

SM SUPERMALLS

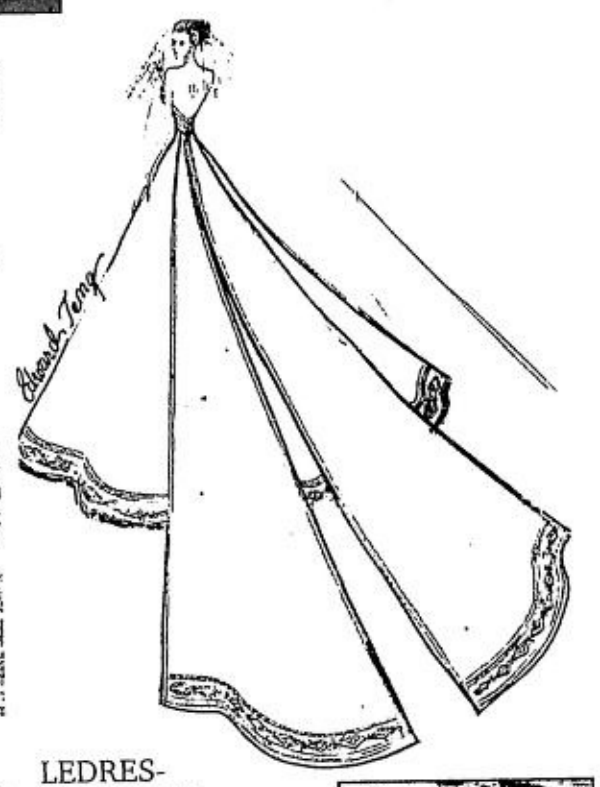
SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM MEGAMALL • SM CITY STA. MESA • SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY SUCAT • SM SOUTHMALL • SM CITY BICUTAN
SM CITY BACOOR • SM CITY PAMPANGA • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS • SM CITY BATANGAS • SM CITY SAN LAZARO • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY MARILAO
SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA • SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO • SM CITY STA. ROSA

## Milestones

*We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

### OLMEDO-LOPEZ

**Patrick James Olmedo**, son of **Ramon** and **Agnes** (née **Lumanlan**) **Olmedo**, married recently **Katherine Lopez**, daughter of **David** and **Agueda** (née **Dayanghari**) **Lopez**, at Santuario de San Antonio, Makati. Reception was at New World Hotel.



### TAMANO-LATIPH

Engineer **Abdulbasit S. Tamano**, son of **Hadji Hassan** and **Asfiah Tamano** (†), married Dr. **Emirah A. Latiph**, daughter of Datu **Abdullatiph Bin Salih Usman** and **Bae Sittie Omairah Latiph**, in a modern royal Muslim wedding at Marawi Resort Hotel, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. The groom is a senior mechanical engineer in Abnia Design Consultants in Jeddah, K.S.A., while the bride is an obstetrician-gynecologist in Amai Pak-Pak Medical Center, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, ARMM.

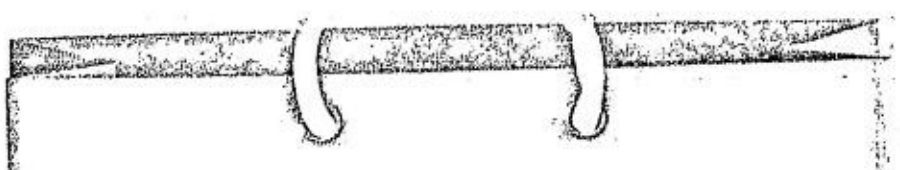
### LEDRES-VILLAREAL

**James Ledres**, son of **Mario** and **Juliana Ledres** (†), will tie the knot with **Ivy Villareal**, daughter of **Sesinando** and **Yolanda Villareal** (†), on April 30 at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, Fernwood Gardens, Quezon City. Reception will follow at the Cycad Garden of Fernwood 2, Sanville Subdivision. The bride's gown is designed by **Edward Teng**.

### AURELIO-SOLTES

**Tristan C. Aurelio**, son of **Bonifacio** and **Milagros Aurelio**, will wed **Maria Elena V. Soltes**, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Lucia Soltes**, on April 22 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Barasoain Church.

Walk the Biblical Path
of Jesus in
**JORDAN, ISRAEL, EGYPT**
**w/ Rev. Fr. Corsie Legaspi**
on
**May 2006**
For details please call / text
**Salve** cell. no. 09174110154
or 8262819 /
Alice 8290537 or 8299600
cell. no. 0927-5542951
*Limited Slots Available*



A Kid's Kind of Easter!

It happens at The Podium.

On April 16, 2006, Easter Sunday at 11:00 AM, bring the whole family for a lot of fun at The Podium:

- *The first 200 kids can wear bunny ears. Just make a ₱500 single or accumulated purchase from any store in The Podium.*
- *At 1:00 PM, be thrilled by a magic show, games, prizes and a funny bunny host.*
- *Join the Easter Egg Hunt and get egg-citing prizes!*

THE AMAZING TOY STORE!

THE PODIUM
your place | your pace

SUN CELLULAR PREPAID

Free 1 hour voice calls
₱50 7 days
24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED

HERE TO STAY.

Free 4 hours voice calls
₱150 30 days
24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED

Local Sun-to-Sun calls and texts only.

KAREN Macasaet, Jake Macasaet, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Sen. Loi Estrada, Alex Magno, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Gina de Venecia

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and former First Lady Imelda Marcos

GABBY Singson, Speaker De Venecia and Don Emilio Yap

# Cupid is a woman named Bunny

IN AN INTIMATE CEREMONY, WITH Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte officiating, Carissa Cruz and Juju Evangelista recently tied the knot after 21 months of dating.

The bride is Department of Trade and Industry undersecretary while the groom is a businessman.

The romance started when Cruz was introduced by her best friend Bunny Reyes to her husband Joey's best friend, Evangelista. The rest, they say, is history.

The wedding reception, held at the North Harbor Garden Tent of Hotel Philippine Plaza, was attended by personalities from politics and show business.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro were there with former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Sen. Loi Ejercito, former Sen. Loren Legarda and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

Entertainment personalities included Lea Salonga, Gretchen Barretto, Charlene Gonzales and Assunta de Rossi.

Parents of the couple were there: the bride's mother Gina de Venecia and husband Speaker Joe de Venecia; and her father Felipe Cruz II and wife Ching; and the groom's parents, Nestie and Nena Evangelista.

## Princess

Felipe Cruz Sr., the bride's paternal grandfather, and Azucena Vera-Perez, her maternal grandmother, described her as the "baby" and "princess" of the family. "Tatay" Cruz wished the newlyweds well as they took a "crack at happiness," while "Mama Nene" recounted that the bride was the first-born girl and baby of the clan.

During the toasts to the newlyweds, the groom's brother, Tojie, noted that though Cruz was the first-born son, he was the last to marry. Tojie said his brother's three previous relationships did not work out. "Now, he's compensating by having three in-laws!" referring to the Cruzes, the Vera Perezes and De Venecias.

Rajo Laurel created the bride's gowns for the civil wedding and reception.

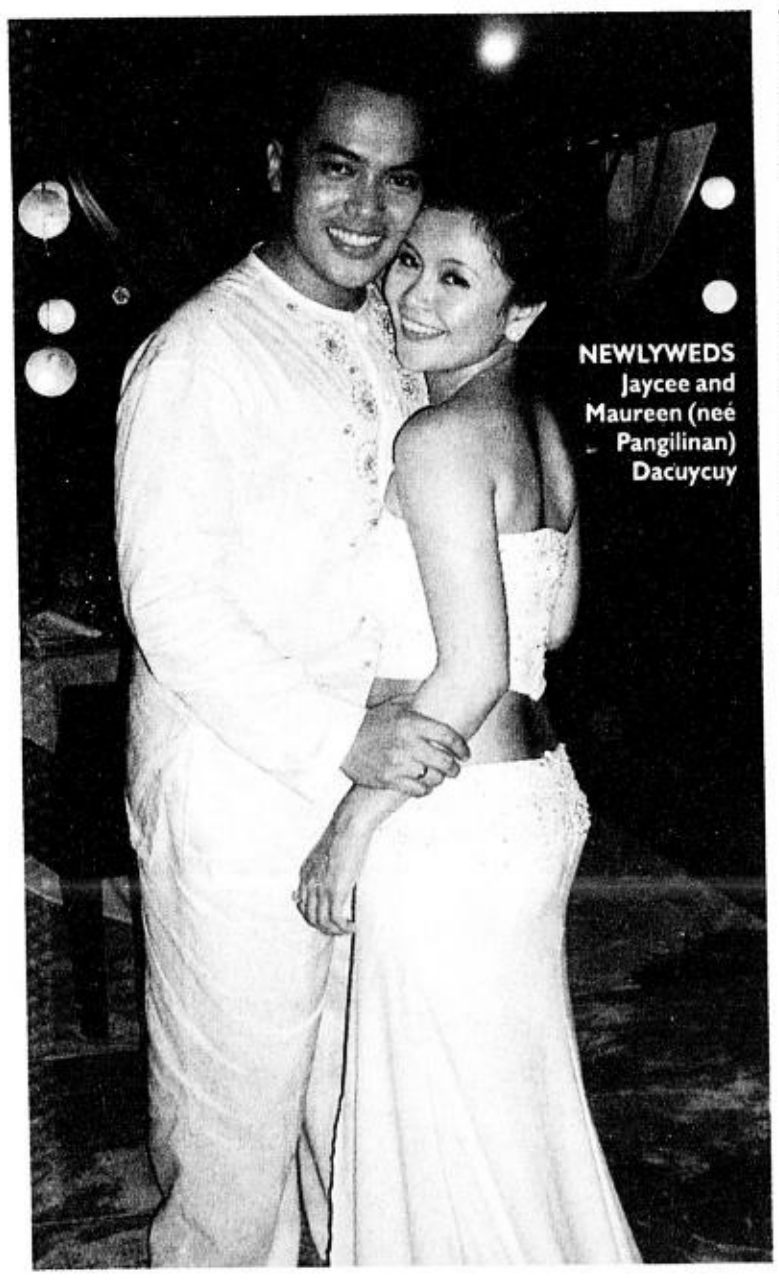
Cruz is one of the youngest undersecretaries in the Arroyo government. She studied Management at Ateneo de Manila University and got her master's degree in Business Administration at Boston University. She founded the Alliance of Asian Business Clubs of MBA Schools in Boston and worked as a teaching assistant for Starting New Ventures Class at Harvard College.

Evangelista finished industrial engineering at De La Salle University, where he was a student since kindergarten. At present, he is the sales director of the family-owned Philippine Medical Systems Inc. (PMSI), exclusive distributor for Toshiba Medical in the Philippines. He took a post-graduate course at the Asian Institute of Management and, for a time, worked for Johnson and Johnson and CIGI.

The church wedding is scheduled for May 6 in Macau.

QC MAYOR Feliciano Belmonte, Speaker De Venecia, Gina de Venecia, Azucena "Mama Nene" Vera-Perez, the bride Carissa Cruz, Tojie Evangelista (partly hidden), the groom Juju Evangelista and Felipe "Tatay" Cruz Sr.

# A luau for a forest wedding



NEWLYWEDS Jaycee and Maureen (neé Pangilinan) Dacuycuy

THE BLUSHING GROOM SANG "How did you know," to his bride as he stood at the altar of the Mary, Queen of All Nations chapel designed by architect Bobby Manoza.

It was probably one of the best performances of Jaycee T. Dacuycuy, events organizer for Saks Manila. The bride, Maureen Pangilinan, senior supervisor of Mobile phone division of Panasonic Phils. and daughter of Pete and Tess Pangilinan, walked gracefully toward him with tears in her eyes and a shy smile on her lips. She wore a gown designed by their friend Paul Mateo, its veil of several yards of fabric, trailing behind her. She carried a spray of white orchids.

The wedding party moved from a forest to a seaside luau reception organized by the groom's father, veteran publicist Pete L. Dacuycuy, at the Pearl of the Pacific Resort in Boracay. The event coincided with the elder Dacuycuy's birthday.

The groom's mother, Ching Tongol, a former movie assistant director who now resides in San Francisco, California, was not able to attend, but she was constantly in touch with the couple by cell phone.

The 180 guests were flown to the island by Asian Spirit, Seair, Interisland Airlines, Philippine Airlines. The 15 principal sponsors were Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and wife Fem; Palawan 2nd District Rep. Abraham Mitra and Melanie Alvarez, wife of 1st District Rep. Antonio Alvarez of Palawan; Charo Santos (who was unable to attend); Mayor Roberto Rodriguez of Taytay, Palawan; Araceli Sarabia of Boracay Tropics; Republic of Latvia honorary consul Robert Lim Joseph; Doris Almeda; Reynaldo Rodriguez of Asian Spirit; Susie S. Roxas; businessman Bonito Singson; Suzanne King; Charlie Uy of Patio Pacific Resort; Connie Helgen of Red Coconut Beach Hotel Resort; banker Rodolfo Datoc; Ma. Cielito V. Lejano; Alex Valenzona of Club Noah Isabelle Island Resort; Lucy Pangilinan of Sharp Phils.; José Roberto Cocjin of Seawinds Resort; Zeny Domingo; Greg Sanson of Pearl of the Pacific Resort; Evangeline Henares; Nikos Gitsis of Seair (represented by Patrick Tan); Cheese Ledesma of Nami Private Villa Resort; engineer Ferdinand Gonzales of Omnicon Phils.; Carmen Poblador of PAL; Dr. Dante Mendoza; Mhely Schmitt of Dennis Uniform (US); Efren Cayetano; and Sol Gonzales.

PRINCIPAL sponsors Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and Araceli Sarabia, owner of Boracay Tropics Resort Hotel

THE COUPLE with secondary sponsors Sunshine Dizon, Iza Calzado, Danica Sotto and the groom's brother PJ Dacuycuy

Secondary sponsors were movie and television personalities Iza Calzado, Sunshine Dizon, Danica Sotto, Bianca King, Cogie Domingo, Patrick Garcia, among others.

Flower girls were Margeurite Clarisse Pangilinan, Sean Kyle Pangilinan, Angelica Dacuycuy and Alexandra Joyce Estolano. The couple's eight-month-old son Jay Christopher Alfonso served as ring bearer. Miguel Carlos Pangilinan was coin bearer, while John Paul Dacuycuy and brother Francisco Dacuycuy were Bible bearers.

Walter Villa was the photographer and Arlene Villa was the makeup artist.

The open-sided A-shaped chapel where the ceremony was held was in an eight-hectare forest, accessible through a narrow path with pocket gardens. Hundreds of tiny lights were strung along the path and 100 butterflies were set free.

Guests sat on tree stumps for the ceremonies officiated by Rev. Fr. Boyd Sulpico, OP.

For the reception, guests dressed for a luau. They held sparklers as the newlyweds entered the reception area, past three giant sand castles.

Guests danced the night away to music by a live acoustic band.

# Writer is trapped in a sales rep's body

EMILY'S POST

*Emily A. Marcelo*

DEAR EMILY,

I am working in one of the country's biggest corporations. I am part of the sales force, distributing products ranging from beer to cooking oil. I'm a sales agent but my job means I am sales agent, supervisor and account executive.

I may sound pathetic if I tell you I would like to quit my job, but that is how I feel now. I want something new, something with less stress. I have been with the company for seven years now. Though it may not seem so long, I feel I have been there forever. I'm burnt out!

I spend most of my time at work, attending meetings, doing my "*rota*" in sales terms and doing desk work. I also work most Saturdays. I don't have time for other things anymore. I've lost interest and don't seem to have the energy to go out with my friends, meet new people, go out of town, etc. I'd rather sleep.

This year, the company is offering a retirement program and it is very attractive. I want to grab it, but I still think/worry about what's going to happen to me next. I know what to do, and that is to make a career shift, but I am not so sure about my chances of getting hired immediately.

I guess that's the effect of being with a company for so long. I'm also afraid of how my mom will react to this. How will I tell her? It seems that she expects me to stay with this company till I die.

She has retired and is now my dependent. That's not really a problem since my other siblings provide for her, too. But since I live with her, I am not at all independent. She expects me to be home at certain hours and worries when I come home late. I am not a child anymore but that is how I feel around her.

I am getting tired of all this. Life has become so mundane and I want to get out of this rut. Although I have come to love sales, my passion is writing. I do not know what companies to apply with for this type of work. I also have not practiced my writing skills and have just been writing memos now.

What should I do about my current situation? I want to go out there and experience new and beautiful things and appreciate them. Life's too short, right?

GIRL LOST

Your first problem, as I see it, is—you're bored! Despite all the busyness in your office, you feel you're in a rut and don't feel challenged anymore by your job. I'm sure you earn enough to worry about what your mother will say when you quit.

If you're terribly unhappy and utterly frustrated with where you are now, your conscience is telling you something and you have to listen to it. If you think that retirement package is worth taking and will tide you over till your next job, then take it.

But before you plunge from the frying pan to the fire, test the job environment and find out if there is anything attractive that suits you in the horizon.

And will it be easy for you to get into? To quote a line from Desiderata: "Keep interested in your career however humble... it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time."

Remember, it's better to be miserable and assured of a monthly pay, than out of the rut, unemployed and worrying day in and day out how you'll pay your next electric bill.

Your second problem is your mother. Since you live with her, you must abide by her rules, no matter if you pay the bills. If you want complete independence from everyone, live alone. In your case I don't think that is an option. Talk to your mother and tell her how things are. Tell her quietly you're a big girl now and you must have the freedom to go places and see people at your own time.

Assure her that she has taught you well to know right from wrong and that you'll be open to her about what's happening in your life. Your mother is just naturally insecure. She knows you have your own world now and she's not part of it anymore. So she tries to hold on to you like when you were a kid.

If you love writing, take these annoyances, frustration and sheer misery as fodder for your great Filipino novel. There's a reason for everything.

And nothing goes to waste. Hint! Hint!

*E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

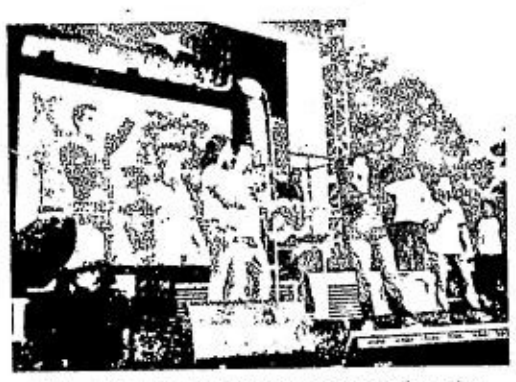
Arnel Ignacio, John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo and Richard Gutierrez entertained the Pinoys gathered in Singapore

# SMART REACHES SINGAPORE SHORES

Approximately a year and a half after SMART Communications, Inc. and PLDT Global launched 1528 SMART in Hong Kong, the wireless service provider recently extended its international operations and brought its innovative service to Singapore.

For the thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) living there, SMART Pinoy 15-61 brings them a little bit closer to home. Like 1528 SMART in Hong Kong, SMART Pinoy 15-61 in Singapore offers the OFWs extremely affordable local and international call and text rates, light-on-the-pocket "top up" cards and the entertaining SMART content such as ringtones, jokes and horoscopes the subscribers have come to love. All it costs for them to phone their loved ones back home is just SG$0.20 per minute, not to mention the lowest rates to other parts of the world including the USA, Canada, Hong Kong, India and Saudi Arabia.

To celebrate this milestone, OFWs in "the Lion City" were treated to a "SMART Pinoy Kamustahan" at Fort Canning Park on April 2, 2006.



After bringing their innovative services to Hong Kong. SMART now enters Singapore

Fort Canning Park was filled with Pinoys during the "SMART Pinoy Kamustahan"

With over 1,500 OFWs in attendance, host Arnel Ignacio seemed equally surprised at the huge turn out as the OFWs were to see their favorite idols. PLDT Global President Al Panlilio said that "What made this event truly special is that we were able to bring superior entertainment to the Overseas Filipino Workers in Singapore together with a SIM card customized for the needs of OFWs and their families in the Philippines."

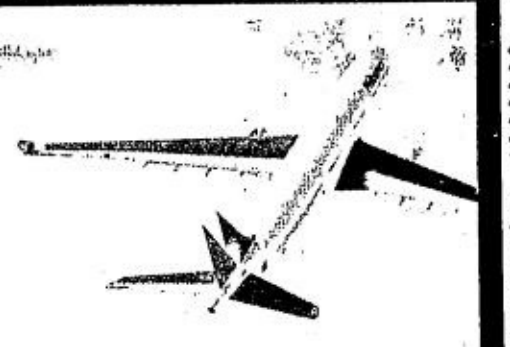
Among the visiting celebrities were John Lloyd Cruz, Richard Gutierrez and Bea Alonzo who entertained their legions of fans by performing in videoke singing contests, dishing out song-and-dance numbers and participating in photo ops. SMART International Services endorser Richard Gutierrez mentioned the benefits of the SMART IDD Pangkabuhayan Promo where SMART subscribers in the Philippines earn one raffle entry for every one minute of IDD call to any country and two raffle entries for an IDD call made to a 1528 number in Hong Kong or 15-61 number in Singapore. Those raffle entries will give them a chance to win a Pangkabuhayan Showcase.

All SMART Pinoy subscribers in Singapore can also join the SMART Pinoy Doble Panalo promo. They earn one raffle entry for every SG$1 reload or SG$1 worth of downloads of the popular services you've come to love from SMART. Ten winners will win SG$500.00 cash, ten winners will win MP3 players, and five Nokia celfones will also be given away. For the grand prize, a Pangkabuhayan at Cash showcase is theirs for the winning. That means a tricycle for the family in the Philippines and SG$1000 for the SMART Pinoy subscriber in Singapore.

1528 SMART subscribers in Hong Kong can also win big prizes who will reload recharge vouchers worth HK$100. Third prize is a motorcycle, second prize is a tricycle, and the grand prize is a passenger jeepney for their families at home!

At the end of the day, the OFWs went their separate ways with the comfort of knowing that SMART supports them 100%, and that with SMART Pinoy 15-61, they just got a little bit closer to home.

# The Sky is the Limit



To travel and see the world is a marvelous thing. With different sights and cultures spread not just across the world, but within the Philippines itself, we often marvel at just how fascinating traveling can be. Now, SMART subscribers can earn frequent flyer miles via Philippine Airlines!

**Earn Miles Trough Your Cellphones**

From April 2, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the "Come Fly with SMART" loyalty program will be rewarding individual SMART Gold, SMART Infinity, and Addict Mobile subscribers. They earn one Mabuhay Mile for every three minutes using SMART IDD, every three international SMS or MMS send, and every P300 billed usage for SMART International Roaming. Beginning on May 1, 2006, they also earn one mile for every P60 billed for WAP or Internet browsing.

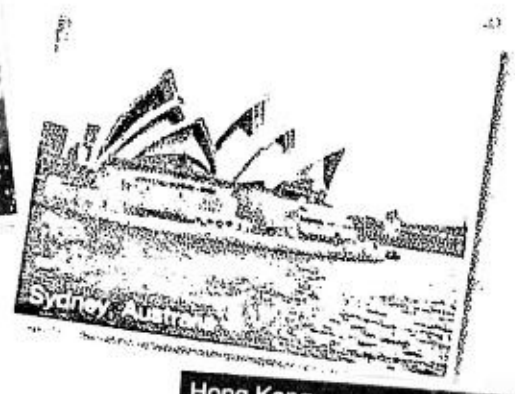
**Sydney Awaits**

If that's not enough to get you excited, SMART has some fantastic news for new SMART postpaid subscribers and those renewing their current SMART postpaid plans. From April 2, 2006 until January 31, 2007, new subscribers on SMART Gold, SMART Infinity, or Addict Mobile (and those who renew their SMART postpaid plans) can earn enough miles to go on a round trip vacation to as far as Sydney, Australia! Signing up with or renewing your subscription to the different SMART postpaid brands can earn you free trips to various destinations both within the country and beyond Philippine shores via Philippine Airlines.

This is truly the first of its kind as far as bringing communications and travel together in one amazing deal. SMART Communications and Philippine Airlines have long been acknowledged as leaders in their respective fields and both companies have come up with a new way to reward their subscribers and members. During the press launch for "Come Fly with SMART" held at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental last March 30th, officials from both companies lauded the benefits of the promo. Where else can you earn frequent flyer miles or free trips by simply using popular services on your cellphones? Yet that's exactly what you'll be receiving through "Come Fly with SMART".

The skies are waiting for you to take flight. So be SMART and earn those Mabuhay Miles now!

*With SMART International Services, you can travel to these amazing destinations*



**Subscribe to SMART Gold, SMART Infinity or Addict Mobile and automatically fly to as far as Sydney, Australia!***

***PLAN 1200***

CEBU • PUERTO PRINCESA • BACOLOD • TAGBILARAN • KALIBO • ILOILO • TACLOBAN

***PLAN 1800***

HONG KONG • TAIPEI • XIAMEN

***PLAN 2500***

HONG KONG • TAIPEI • XIAMEN

Add 1,500 miles and fly to:

BANGKOK • GUAM • HO CHI MINH • BEIJING • JAKARTA • OSAKA • SEOUL • SHANGHAI • SINGAPORE • TOKYO

***PLAN 3500***

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***PLAN 5000***

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Add 4,000 miles and fly to:

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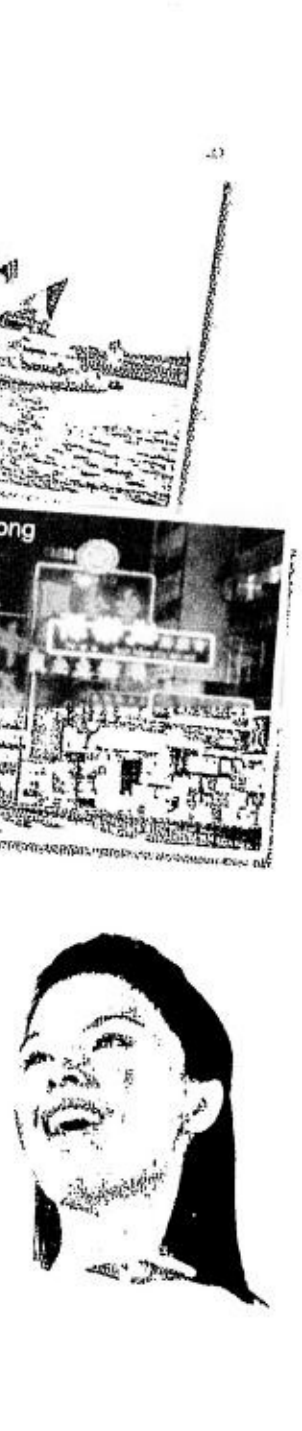
***PLAN 8000***

MELBOURNE • SYDNEY

Add 5,000 miles and fly to:

HONOLULU



**HOW TO JOIN**

**For existing Mabuhay Miles members:**
Text MILES REGISTER <Mabuhay Miles Account Number> to 633

**For non-members of Mabuhay Miles:**
Simply enroll to the Mabuhay Miles website via www.mabuhaymiles.com. Please register to the "Come Fly with SMART" promo after 72 hours

* In lieu of a free phone. Or you can retain your Plan for a free trip!
Please visit www.mabuhaymiles.com to get the latest information on miles redemption

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# Chapel marks 15th anniversary

**PURELY PERSONAL**
*Josephine Darang*

THE CELEBRATION ON MAY 1 OF THE 15th founding anniversary of the Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli Chapel in Naic, Cavite, might be a little subdued with the recent passing of its founder, Dr. Romeo Echauz.

I cannot think of the "Bambino" without thinking of Dr. Echauz. He invited me to the chapel, through his daughter-in-law Vicky Javellana-Echauz, five years ago and introduced me to a beautiful devotion popular in Rome.

The Bambino's shrine in Rome is in the Campidoglio Square. Mothers bring their children to be blessed by the Divine Child. Pregnant women pray for babies that are healthy in mind and body.

Made of wood from an olive tree, the original statue was carved in Jerusalem at the end of the 15th century by a pious Franciscan friar. According to tradition, the friar did not have the paints to complete his work and so the image was miraculously completed by an angel.

During his return to Rome on a ship, a severe storm forced him to throw overboard his small case containing the precious treasure. But the case arrived at the Port of Livorno by itself in the wake of the ship.

The Holy Image was received with great joy in the Eternal City and was accorded special veneration.

Gifts of gold and precious stones from grateful devotees were attached to the image that was clothed in gold. The miracles credited to the Bambino moved Pope Leo XIII to crown the Holy Image in 1897.

During Christmas, children sing to the Bambino and on the Feast of the Epiphany, the whole city gathers at the Capitoline Hill to receive blessings from the Great King.

## Naic chapel

The devotion to the Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli was introduced to Dr. Lourdez T. Echauz, wife of Dr. Romeo Echauz, by Fr. Corsie Legaspi. The Echauzes were moved to build a chapel in the Filipino Paradise Complex in Barrio Sabang in Naic. They came to love the "Bambino" and wanted Him to have a beautiful shrine.

The first Mass was celebrated in 1991 by Fr. Nestor Abad and the late Msgr. Hernando Godoy. The chapel was inaugurated on May 2, 1992, in agreement with Fr. Bernandino Prospero, rector of the shrine of Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli in Rome. The Karakol Festival began that year as thanksgiving to the Bambino.

A special Mass will be said on May 1 by Msgr. Jaime Mora, resident chaplain of the chapel, with other priests. Masses will also be celebrated at 4 p.m., Wednesday; 4 p.m., first Friday; and 4 p.m. Saturday as Anticipated Mass.

The Prayer Power Movement was launched by Dr. Romeo Echauz and his friends. Those who want to get prayers can call 5235233 or write to 10/F, Stanisco Tower, 999 Pedro Gil St., Ermita.

## 20th anniversary

Benedicto Flores, vice president for operations of Trans World Link Corp., promised he would have the devotion to Birhen Divina Pastora published after his prayers were answered.

The Divina Pastora, patroness of the Diocese of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, is known for her miraculous intercessions. Her feast day is May 1, but the town of Gapan marks on April 26 the 20th anniversary of the declaration of Gapan Church, where the image is enshrined, as the National Shrine of Birhen Divina Pastora by Ricardo Cardinal Vidal.

The occasion was attended by several bishops, priests and thousands of devotees.

**DEVOTION to Bambino de Aracoeli originated in Rome.**

The miraculous image was crowned and declared patroness of Nueva Ecija on April 26, 1964, by the decree of Pope Paul VI. People from Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Zambales, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Abra, Cagayan and Isabela witnessed the beautiful event.

More on the Birhen Divina Pastora in a future column. For *estampitas*, text 0917-6636825 or write to Benedicto Flores at Unit 609, AIC Gold Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

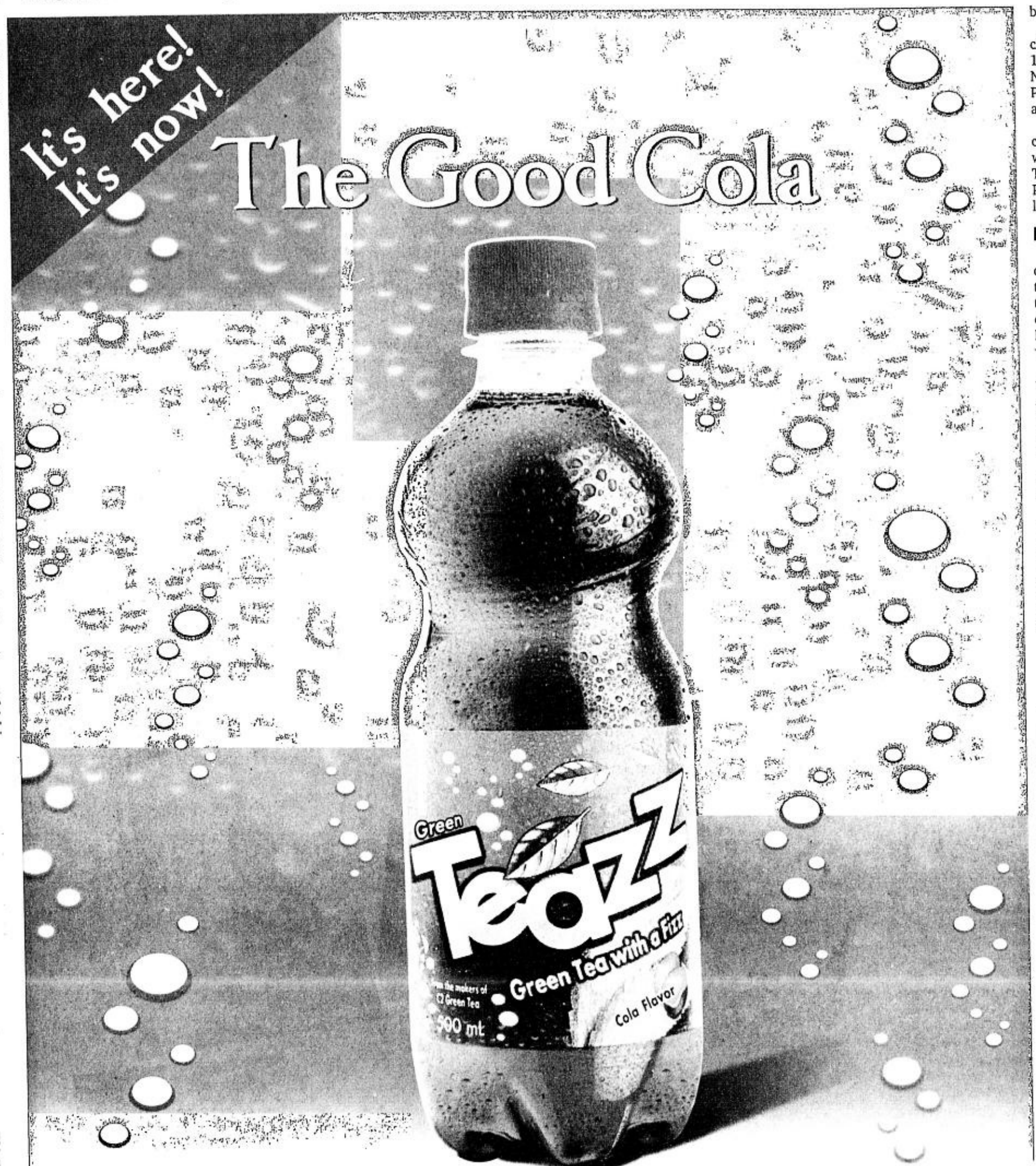
## Divine Mercy feast

The Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy on Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong, begins at 6 p.m. today, the nine-day novena to mark the feast of the Divine Mercy. Feast day is April 23, first Sunday after Easter. This year's theme is "Divine Mercy Spirituality in Action," meaning doing works of mercy.

Each day has a theme. April 16 is the day to visit the imprisoned; April 17, feed the hungry; April 18, clothe the naked; April 19, shelter the homeless; April 20, bury the dead; April 21, be patient to those in error; April 22, forgive offenses; and April 23, admonish sinners.

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will say Mass, broadcast live on television through ABS-CBN Channel 2, at 7 a.m., April 23, at the shrine.

Happy Easter to all my readers, especially Loida Genoso and her children Lyndon and Carlo who read me in San Diego, California where they live. They were here last week to put up 7-eleven franchises in General Trias, Cavite, and on Ayala Avenue, Makati. Loida told me about the Nuestra Señora de Soledad, patroness of Cavite, way back in 1983.




From the makers of C2 Green Tea.

The fun & fizz of cola with the goodness of green tea.

Also in: Cola Lite, Lemon & Raspberry Flavors

***What's the buzz? What's the fizz about this new cola?***

***IT'S COLA!*** A lot of people think that cola refers to popular sweet carbonated drinks that are usually caramel or artificially flavored. What they don't know is that cola is actually a flavor derived from cola nuts. And because cola nuts are essential ingredients and flavoring found in carbonated beverages, the name "cola" has been associated with soft drinks and sodas.

But now, here comes a new cola with a twist! The makers of C2 Green Tea introduce a new class of cola drinks: ***Green TEAZZ – Green Tea with a fizz!***

***IT'S FIZZY!*** Open a bottle of ***Green TEAZZ*** and hear that familiar pop and fizzle. Drink it straight from the bottle and feel the tiny bubbles refresh you deep down! Or pour it onto a glass to see the effervescence – thousands of tiny bubbles bursting wildly! That's because ***Green TEAZZ*** is made with sparkling water that makes it fizzy and outrageously refreshing!

***IT'S GREEN TEA!*** Only ***Green TEAZZ*** is way cooler than soft drinks! That's because ***Green TEAZZ*** has green tea, one of the newest favorite drinks of this fun loving yet health conscious generation. ***Green TEAZZ*** is made from natural green tea leaves so you can enjoy all their healthy benefits!

Green tea is rich in Catechins, powerful anti-oxidants that do not just inhibit the growth of cancer cells, but kill cancer cells without harming healthy tissue. Catechins are also effective in lowering LDL cholesterol levels, and inhibiting the abnormal formation of blood clots, the leading cause of heart attacks and stroke.

With ***Green TEAZZ***, Green Tea with a fizz, you can indulge in your favorite cola flavor, the refreshing fizz of soft drinks, and the goodness of green tea!

Enjoy the fun & fizz of of ***Green TEAZZ*** now! Get them in Robinsons Supermarkets and Ministop Convenience Stores.

## *Milestones*

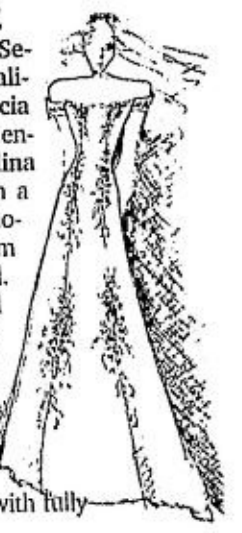
MARTINEZ-YUSI

**Benjamin C. Martinez Jr.**, son of **Benjamin Sr.** and **Teodora Martinez**, recently wed **Marjorie Yusi**, daughter of **Reynaldo** and **Lolita Yusi**, at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral in Cabanatuan City. Reception was held at the Lakewood City in Cabanatuan. The groom is a graduate of the University of the Philippines while the bride is a graduate of Assumption College.

BAUTISTA-CUNANAN

**Avel Bautista**, son of Dr. **Tony** and **Minia Bautista** of Lipa City, recently married **Ely Cunanan**, daughter of **Salvador** (deceased) and **Cecilia Cunanan** of Pampanga, at St. Francis Xavier Parish Church in Nasugbu, Batangas. The wedding was officiated by Fr. **Bong Panganiban**. Reception followed at White Cove Hotel and Resort, Nasugbu, Batangas.

SALIBA-DEJARME



**John P. Saliba**, son of **Segundo** and **Genoveva Saliba**, will wed **Anna Patricia O. Dejarme**, daughter of engineer **Gene** and **Carolina Dejarme** on April 22, in a Christian wedding ceremony at the Grand Ballroom of Vivere Suites Hotel. Cocktail reception will follow at Brassirei Room and lunch reception at the Grand Ballroom of Vivere. The bride will wear an off-white princess-cut off-shoulder gown in gazar silk with fully beaded bodice.

# Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback... s at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: name/age/city/message to ...7 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

## Winners of the Best of Boracay photo contest

Story on page G2


Congratulations to all AHEAD students who passed the 2004-2005 Ateneo, La Salle and U.P. college entrance tests.

AGUSAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL: Moreno Jose Estrada, Marvin Leandro Reyes ANGELICUM COLLEGE: Mananao Enrile AQUINAS UNIVERSITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL: Dominick Bombales, Camille Mattias, Keith Palanca ARAYAT HOLY CHILD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: Elisa Joan Manabat ASSUMPTION ANTIPOLO: Patricia Marie Alcazar, Zelena Regine Hernandez ASSUMPTION COLLEGE: Eunice Ador, Bea Celdran, Tanya Maria Gonzales, Ma. Roberta Limjap, Lara Margarita Martinez, Paulyn Mufieca Melgar, Colleen Alexandria Mijares, Samantha Anne Monzon, Patricia Kathryn Ocampo, Bernadette Denise Marie Uy, Mikhaella Viernes ATENEO: Edward Abrahan, Amos Mikhail Adriano, Marlowe Apelas, Bryan Baladad, Angelo Balili, Christopher John Balon, Miguel Barbano, Darwin Paul Briguez, Juan Diego Felipe Cadiz, Kar Lyle Constantino, Jose Ricardo Crisol, Alfonso De Guzman, Alvin Francis Dumalus, Miguel Antonio Juarez, Justin Josh Lapus, Felix Paolo Lizarondo, Antonio Thaddeus Lopez, Mario Leoncio Marcelo, Francis Miguel Mariano, Miguel Mondragon, Samuel Jonathan Nepomuceno, Gabriel Pagaliwagan, Vincent Ponte, Paolo Payumo, Alfredo Rey Pontejos, Julian Presbitero, John Paul Quesong, Geoffrey Jonathan Reyes, Juan Niccolo Reyes, Francis Carlo Roco, Rey Benedict Silag, Enrico Lorenzo Suarez, Todman Tan, Jose Eduardo Tansengco, Miguel Jusol Timan, Gerard Micheal Umali, Michael Gerard Victoriano, Joseph Darley Wijsekara ATHENEUM SCHOOL: Clara Alexa Pangco BAGUIO CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL: Reichelle Jane Demoi, Alreo Marie Pulido BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY: Jessica Grulla, Emmanuel Tan BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL: Woo Ri Bae, Andrea Levigne, Marie Angelica Sibayan BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA: Nico Tan

A+ AHEAD TUTORIAL & REVIEW

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GREENHILLS: 722-7258
ROBINSONS GALLERIA: 631-1100
DAGUPAN: (075) 515-8588



Bakasyon Pamilya Package

Inclusions:

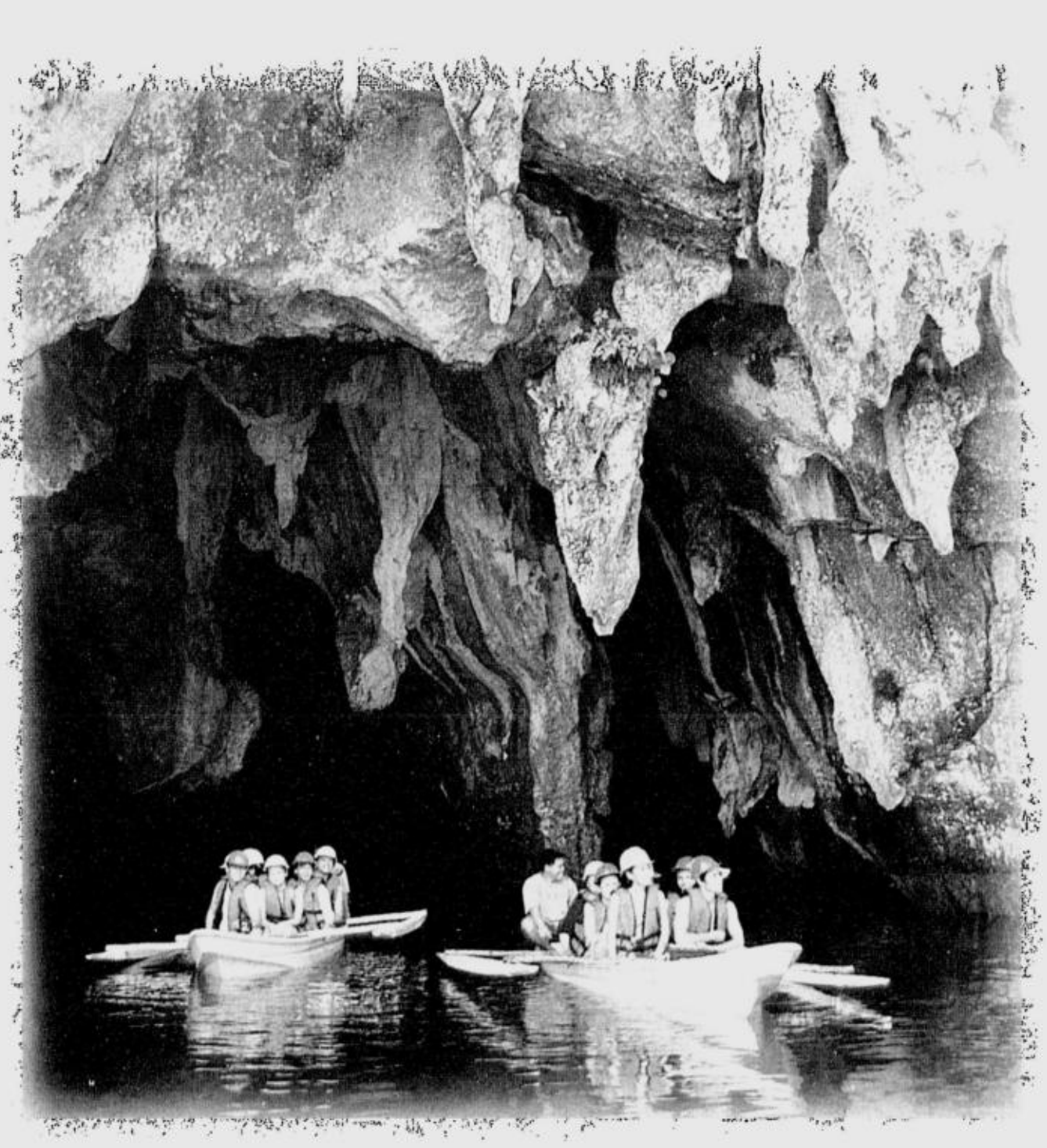
1. 3D/2N stay at The Legend Palawan
2. Full Board Meals
   - Buffet breakfast, lunch & dinner at The Legend Palawan
   - Choice of one-time only set dinner at an alternative PaX-partner restaurant (in lieu of one buffet dinner at The Legend Palawan)
   - Complimentary coffee or tea service for duration of stay
3. Tours
   - Half-day cruise of Honda Bay with stop at Snake Island or Pandan Island
   - St. Paul Underground River Tour : a UNESCO-declared Heritage Site
   - Packed meals on tours
   - Experienced and licensed tour hosts
   - Transfers to and from hotel
   - All entrance fees to sites, permits and cottage fees

P 9,999 NETT PER PERSON (for family of 4)

* Maximum two (2) children aged 2-7 years are free in room and meals (if sharing with parents) and tours. Additional charge of Php 8,999 nett for additional person.
* Valid till December 31, 2006.

PaX Tours is an in-house tour service of The Legend Palawan. For reservations, call 702-2700 to 04 • E-mail : sales@legendpalawan.com.ph
Websites : www.palawanexperience.com.ph / www.legendpalawan.com.ph • Owned and Managed by Legend Hotels International Corporation

Let Nature Take Its Course at The Legend Palawan



Of all the places in the world, Palawan as the Philippines' last frontier is a nature-world that must be explored. And your doorway to nature is The Legend Palawan.

Situated in the heart of Puerto Princesa, The Legend Palawan opens doors to a world of adventure. With its in-house tours known as The Legend Palawan Experience (PaX), you're just one step away from the thrills that only nature's best can provide.

Explore the Underground River at the St. Paul Subterranean River Park. Declared a World Heritage site by the UNESCO, its 8.2 kilometer stretch, four of which are navigable, makes it the longest navigable underground river in the world. Ease into the quiet lagoon beneath rugged limestone cliffs and a panorama of stalactites and stalagmites.

Visit a Crocodile Farm and learn more about the endangered species that are endemic to Palawan and other parts of the Philippines. Or trek the Monkey Trail and spend some time bird and monkey watching as you explore Palawan's virgin forests.

Feed the friendly fish that swarm as you wade the waters of Pandan Island. Marvel at the long stretch of Snake Island's sandbar before it disappears right before your eyes. Or take a late-night speedboat to Iwahig River on a starry night and watch fireflies sparkle like Christmas lights.

Then shop for nature's produce. Visit the market for smoked and dried fish, fresh crabs and lobsters, roasted cashew nuts, pearls of a rainbow of colors and native woodcraft.

Catch nature at its breathtaking best.
The Legend Palawan Experience...
your gateway to adventure.

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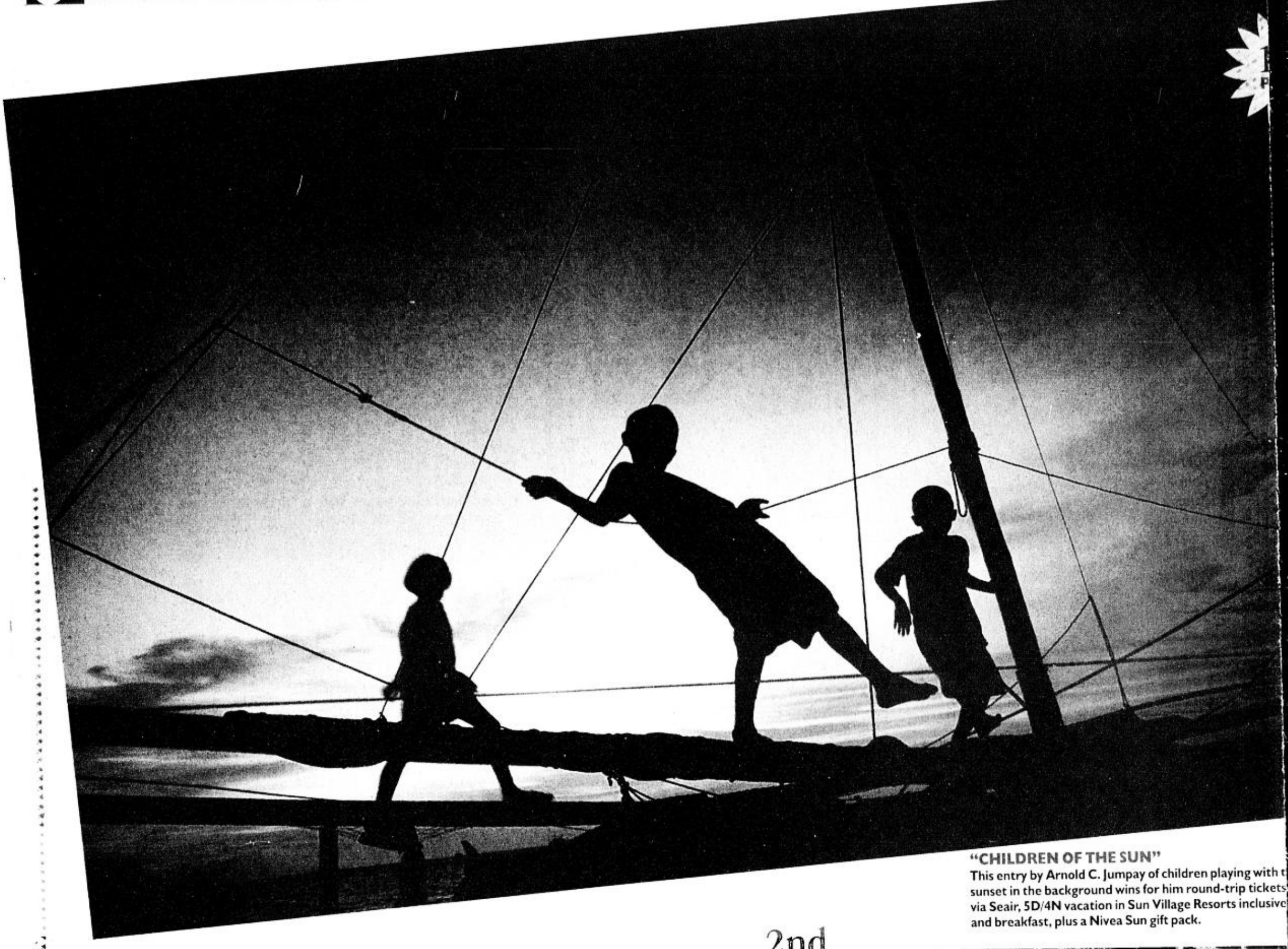
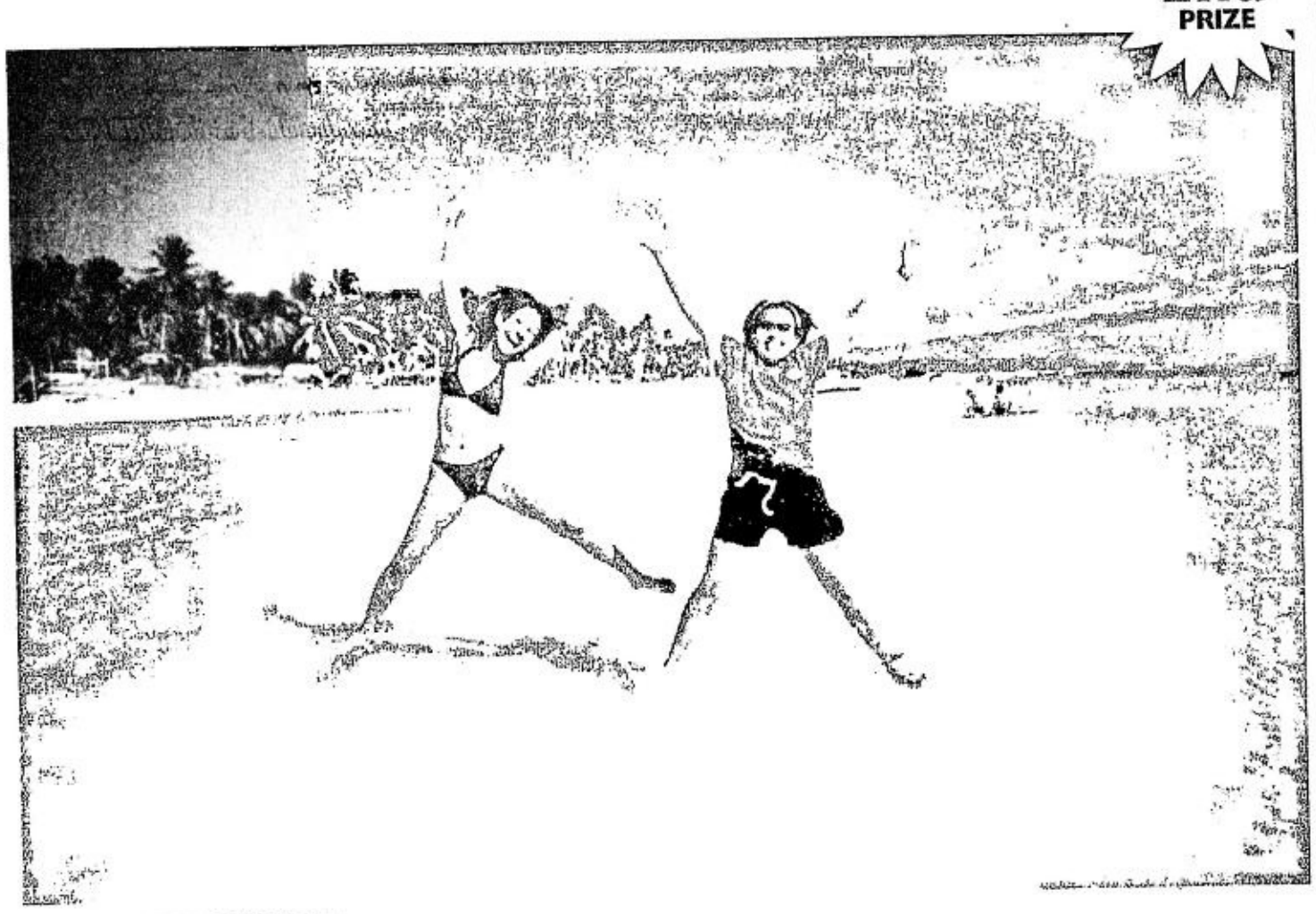
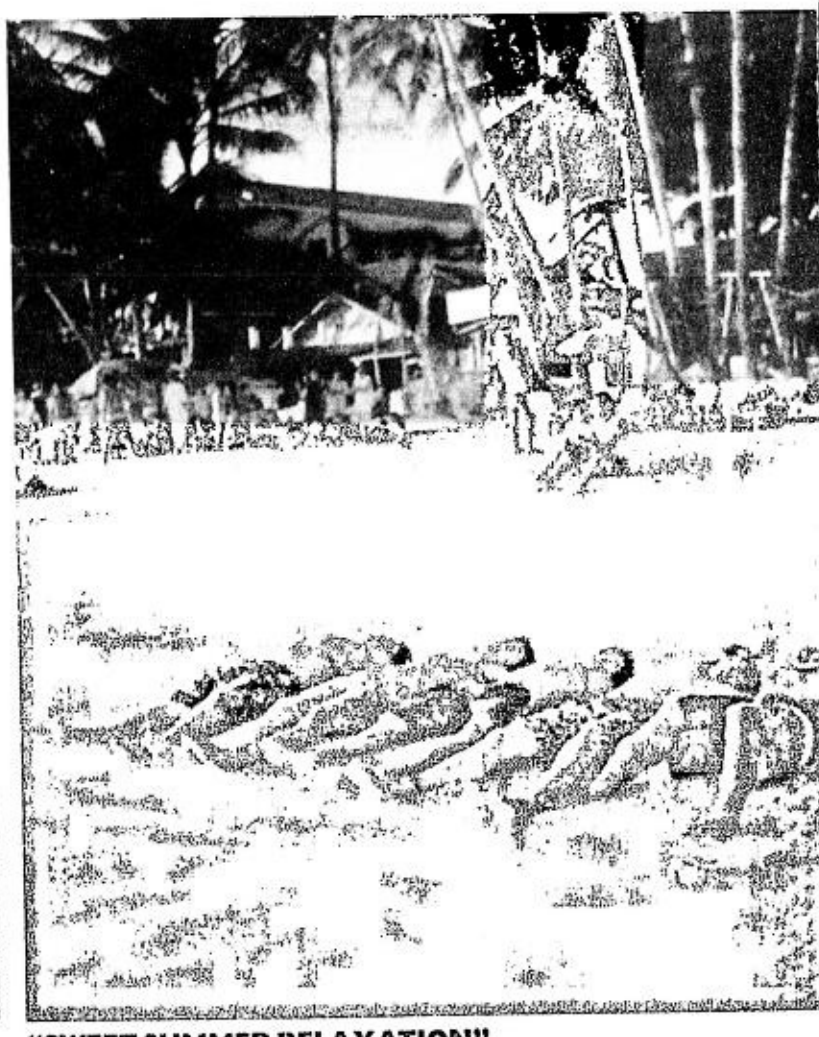


**"CHILDREN OF THE SUN"**
This entry by Arnold C. Jumpay of children playing with t
sunset in the background wins for him round-trip tickets
via Seair, 5D/4N vacation in Sun Village Resorts inclusive
and breakfast, plus a Nivea Sun gift pack.

2nd PRIZE



**"HAPPYHAPPY JOYJOY"**
Gabi Espaldon's entry captured fun under the sun and wins for her round-trip tickets to Boracay for two via Seair, 4D/3N vacation in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast plus a Nivea Sun gift pack.



**"SWEET SUMMER RELAXATION"**
This lineup of certified beach bums, submitted by Christopher John R. Batan.
via Seair, 3D/2N vacation in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation

## CONSOLATION PRIZES:

**"FIRST TIMER"**
Teresa Pison's snapshot of a child's simple enjoyment of Boracay wins a 3D/2N vacation in Sun Village Resorts, plus a Nivea Sun gift pack.

**"CHILDREN OF A GRACIOUS GOD"**
Local kids at play oblivious of the breathtaking scenery and the camera wins for Clemente D. Fajardo Jr. a 3D/2N vacation in Sun Village Resorts plus a Nivea Sun gift pack.

**"BATHING BEAUTIES"**
The singular sensation of a chorus lin
coconut trees wins Emilio L. Marano
Nivea Sun gift pack.

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# Winners of the Best of Boracay photo contest

FOR SOME WEEKS NOW YOU'VE ENJOYED seeing in these pages photograph after photograph of ordinary pleasure-seekers basking in the sun, sand and bliss of Boracay. Choosing the winners from among the 22 finalists in the PDI-Sun Village-Seair "Best of Boracay" photo contest wasn't easy, but the judges—Sun Village Resorts owner Edd Fuentes, Seair VP for commercial affairs and director for corporate planning Patrick Tan, photographer Alex van Hagen, this section's editor and PDI marketing's Hazel Soriaga—worked through lunch at Mezze in Greenbelt 2 until they had narrowed down the selection to the three best and brightest.

Originally, there were no consolation prizes but three photos so captivated the judges' hearts that Fuentes decided to award a stay in his Sun Village for their senders.

During the run of the "Best of Boracay" photo contest, it was not unusual to see visitors in this island paradise taking photos for the contest. A lot of people also e-mailed us pleading to extend the contest until after they had returned with photos from their Holy Week stay in Boracay. While no such extension was possible, we are asking all of you beach lovers out there to continue clicking away every time you're in Bora. Who knows? Next year we might bring you a bigger "Best of Boracay" photo contest.

## PALAWAN: *The Getaway That Gives More*

Puerto Princesa is abuzz with news of tourism developments in the city for the next three years, totaling at least US$100 million or Php5.5 billion. The city draws some 117,000 visitors every year, but plans are to catapult the city as the country's leading destination within the next three years and draw up to 600,000 tourists a year.

Puerto Princesa serves as the islands' nerve center being the seat of public administration as well as the focal point of trade, commerce, service and industry. The city identified that its prime industries include tourism, agriculture and fishing. According to reports, about 60% of tourism revenues are said to come from the local MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) market. Palawan is also said to be one of the biggest suppliers of marine products to Metro Manila and other Asian countries.

Today, the capital city, Puerto Princesa, is reported as the new convention city of the south, with the rise of the Palawan Convention Center within. The Legend Palawan, always touted as the cleanest city in the Philippines. Puerto Princesa, like the entire province, is a showcase for clean and green projects and environmentally sound tourism. Ringed by water and white sands, rich with history and natural attractions, a vitally important source of marine resources for local consumption and export, Palawan is growing in popularity and stature as a vacation and convention destination.

The Legend Palawan is the premier destination for Puerto Princesa visitors. It is where to chart vacations and adventures with some of the most seasoned guides of the islands, through the hotel's Legend Palawan Experience, better known as the PaX Tours.

"There's an adventure designed for every member of the family or the conventioneer," said Ginger K. Villavicencio, Assistant Vice President of Legend Hotel International (LHI) Corporation, the hotel's mother company. "For starters, family groups or corporate groups can consider booking the suites with jacuzzis or opt for the hotel's Team Rooms, which accommodate comfortably up to 12 people in individual beds. The rooms are spacious and hi-level."

"The men and the boys can consider a thrilling trip to the 8.2 kilometer Underground River which is a UNESCO Heritage site while the ladies can tackle a culinary tour which starts with the sumptuous buffets of our very own Tanglaw Restaurant. Every one can then proceed to a market tour for presents for home and search for indigenous arts and crafts or spend a day on a Honda Bay island hop for sheer water fun," she added.

The PaX Tours come in several packages and can only be availed of at more reasonable rates when combined with a stay at The Legend Palawan. What makes the PaX Tours exceptional are the long experience, professionalism and discipline of the in-house tour hosts assisted by the regular staff.

The Legend Palawan specializes in planning and providing hotel guests with short distance guided tours which can be arranged to cover fees, transport and transfers, food, and other requirements. For destinations beyond the hotel tours, guests are assisted in making forward connections.

With the summer vacations coming up, the scramble for choice vacation or convention destinations is up. Go for the getaway that gives more. The Legend Palawan in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. You simply can't go wrong.

For inquiries, please contact the Manila Central Sales and Reservations telephone + 632 7022700 to 04, Fax + 632 6389255 to 56 or visit www.legendhotels.com.ph.

## Motorola's Magnificent MOTOBUS!

### *Motorola's newest marvel kicks off with flair and festivities*

Painted in flaming colors of yellow and orange, and covered in cutting-edge Motorola images, the newest sensation from Motorola was introduced to the public in a grand affair that rivaled the carnivals of old.

Held at the Rajah Sulayman fountain area along the famed leisure destination Baywalk, the MOTOBUS kick-off party attracted many a passersby who were quickly enthralled by the enormity of the whole event. Amidst the busy and traffic-ridden Roxas Boulevard was an oasis of fun and entertainment!

The site was the first stop of the newest wonder from Motorola, the MOTOBUS, designed to bring mobile technology, service and musical entertainment conveniently to Pinoys everywhere. It's interactive and experiential, allowing consumers to take part in the entire Motorola experience. On board, there are 6 Motozones that exhibit Motorola's key thrusts for the year. The Design, Music, Mass Market, Accessories, Service and 3G zones are decorated with vibrant colors, impressive graphics, and high-tech visual displays. But the whole experience goes beyond just the MOTOBUS itself. With surrounding retail, music and photo booths, an outdoor concert and other various activities, the MOTOBUS tour is one heck of an act!

The MOTOBUS will be touring all over the country, bringing the same fun and excitement to various towns and cities. Can you imagine this kind of show at your local barangay? Make way for the MOTOBUS!

*Mylene Dizon and JR Isaac having a blast at the MOTOBUS kick-off*

*Happy Moto user, Iya Yotoko*

*Shu Uemura's Tina Tinio*

*Host JM Rodriguez proudly wears his Oakley RAZRWire shades*

*Digital Tour's Archie*

*Anne Curtis with her Pink RAZR*

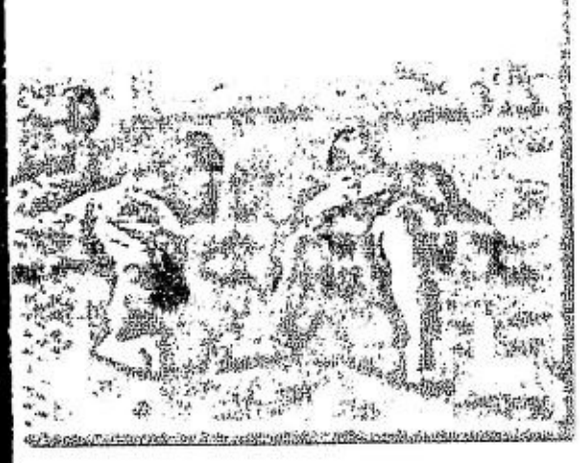
*MTV Bling's Tim Yap*

*Motorola country manager Patrick Aronson*

*Jenni Epperson, Joey Mead and Motorola head of marketing Mari Litonjua*

he glorious Boracay
to Boracay for four
of accommodation

3rd PRIZE



wins for him round-trip tickets to Boracay for two
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e, in all shapes and sizes, perpendicular to a line of
) III a 3D/2N vacation in Sun Village Resorts plus a

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# TRAVELBRIEFS

## Easter hunting

THE MABUHAY Manor presents "Little Hunters' Finders' Keepers" for the whole family 10 a.m-10 p.m.,today at its Sutukil Restaurant.

Kids can enjoy a free meal, join the egg hunt, go home with a loot bag and swim in the hotel pool, all for only P275 net per person. Adults pay P375 net per person for the package, consumable at the Sutukil Restaurant. They also get a privilege card and free use of the pool. For every five paying adults, one child dines for free. The Mabuhay Manor also offers a summer getaway promo. Starting April 21 until June 4, get a Family Value Treat for only P2,500 net good for two adults and two children. This includes day use of a Manor Suite, a spacious bi-level poolside room that is fully air-conditioned with two queen-sized beds, a bedside control panel, mini-bar, sofa bed, kitchenette, Jacuzzi, cable TV and two toilets and bath. Guests get to cool off at the pool; inclusive of P500 worth of food and beverage at the Sutukil Restaurant; and a privilege card. Add P150 per head for extra guests availing of room and pool use. The Family Value Treat is available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. only. Prior reservation is required for The Mabuhay Manor's graduation package, Easter Sunday promo and Family Value Treat for summer. The Mabuhay Manor is along FB Harrison St. corner Ortigas St., Pasay City, just minutes away from the domestic and international airports and bus terminals. For inquiries, contact the Manila Central Sales and Reservations through tel. 7022700 to 04, fax 6389255 to 56, e-mail reservations@legendhotels.com.ph, or visit www.legendhotels.com.ph

## GMA to inaugurate Cebu hotel

THE NEWLY renovated Marco Polo Hotel-Cebu on Nivel Hills, Cebu City will be inaugurated at 4:30 p.m., April 27. President Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor. The hotel is the eighth member of the Hong Kong Hotel Group. It is only 25 minutes from the Mactan International Airport and 10 minutes away from Cebu's hub. The renovated hotel, part of the Metrobank Group, has 335 rooms, including 12 junior suites, a bridal suite, a Marco Polo suite and presidential suite.

Call 8988855, 8575918 or 8185656 or e-mail foundation@metrobank.com.ph

## Boracay package for locals

LE SOLEIL de Boracay is offering the Boracay Pleasure Package until June 15.

The package, available to local residents, includes three-days, two-nights accommodation in a deluxe room, two days set breakfast, one night set dinner, a Soleil Oil massage, round-trip airport transfer and a welcome drink.

The resort features a Mediterranean-inspired design with Oriental touches.

Le Soleil de Boracay is a member of the Green Hotels Association," signifying its commitment to help protect the environment. Visit Le Soleil de Boracay's web site at www.lesoleil.com.ph, or call the Manila Sales Office at 8996779/8900493 or e-mail lesoleil@pjlhuillier.com

## Special Lenten offer

SEVEN Suites Hotel Observatory in Antipolo offers a special gift to regular patrons and guests this Lenten season.

Guests who will book two rooms or a room for two nights from April 9 to 16 will get a free room gift certificate which they can use on their next visit.

The hotel provides visitors the Holy Week program of the Antipolo Church.

For Easter Sunday, a buffet brunch is free for all checked-in guests, both adults and kids. For people who not staying in the hotel, one kid dines for free for every two paying adults. The brunch buffet is priced at P220.

All kids can win prizes by joining the Easter egg hunt and outdoor games.

Guests can use telescope at the Seven Suites roof deck observatory for stargazing.

Seven Suites Hotel Observatory is at Hollywood Hills Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City (across Valley Golf Country Club). Call 6820330 or 6822076.

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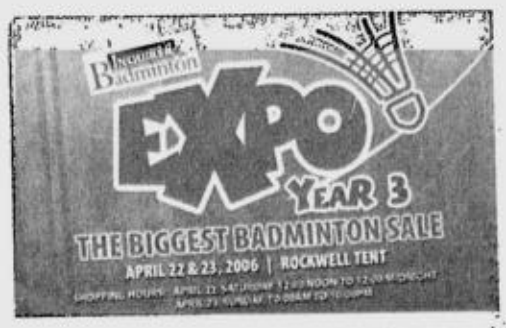


# Lessons from 14 brave kids

IT COMES with the territory. The Lifestyle staff encounters the so-called big names in society—from celebrity fashionistas to best-selling artists to the Women who Lunch—on a daily basis in the line of duty.

But one Thursday in April, only 14 names were on our minds. Marish. Miko. Gwen. Patricia. Alysa. John. Patrik. Nora Jana. Arnold. Bryan. Zynne. George. Mark. Wendy. Fourteen kids from the Philippine Children's Medical Center who are bravely battling different types of cancer.

The kids were all celebrating their birthdays in March and April. And so, with the help of Project Brave Kids, an NGO that extends assistance to indigent children afflicted with cancer, Ayala Land Corporation, Cabalen, Visions and Expressions and Ballet Manila, we prepared a special afternoon for the kids—a birthday party, if you will. Their parents were invited to join in on the fun, too.

Cabalen prepared a special spread of Filipino food at

LESSONS/ H4

1ST SCHOLASTIC SUMMER LITERACY FESTIVAL

April 22, Saturday, 11am - 9pm
Shangri-La Plaza Mall Atrium

Experience the 1st Scholastic Learning Camp!
A Whole Day of Fun and Excitement for Teachers, Parents, and Kids!

"Mathemagic!" with Queena Lee-Chua, PhD and her son Scott Lee Chua
A Fresh New Approach to Learning Math and Developing Creativity 3pm to 5pm

"Teaching Kids at Home" with Danmaire Consing, M.Ed
Learn New Ways in Teaching Your Kids at Home 1pm to 3pm

"Stories Come Alive" with Alitaptap Storytellers
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Registration Fee: P1,500.00 per person (w/ workshop materials and snacks)
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May 15, Monday, 8am - 12nn Development Acad. of the Phils [DAP], San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
May 16, Tuesday, 8am - 12nn Holiday Plaza Hotel, F. Ramos St., Cebu City
May 17, Wednesday, 8am - 12nn Ateneo de Davao Auditorium, Matina, Davao City
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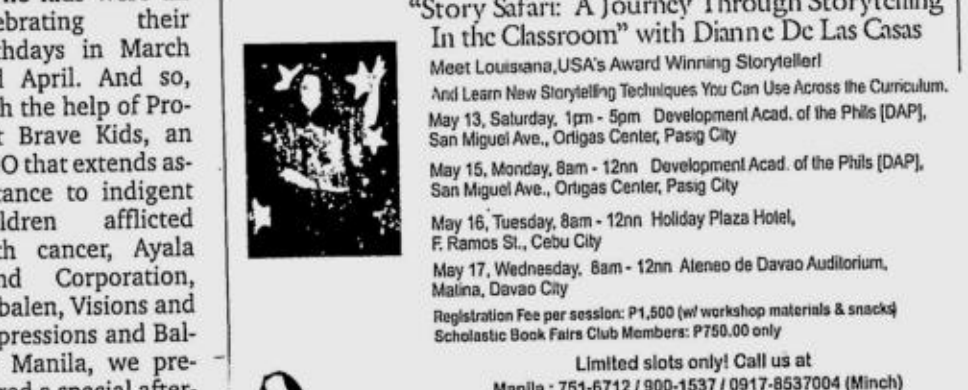

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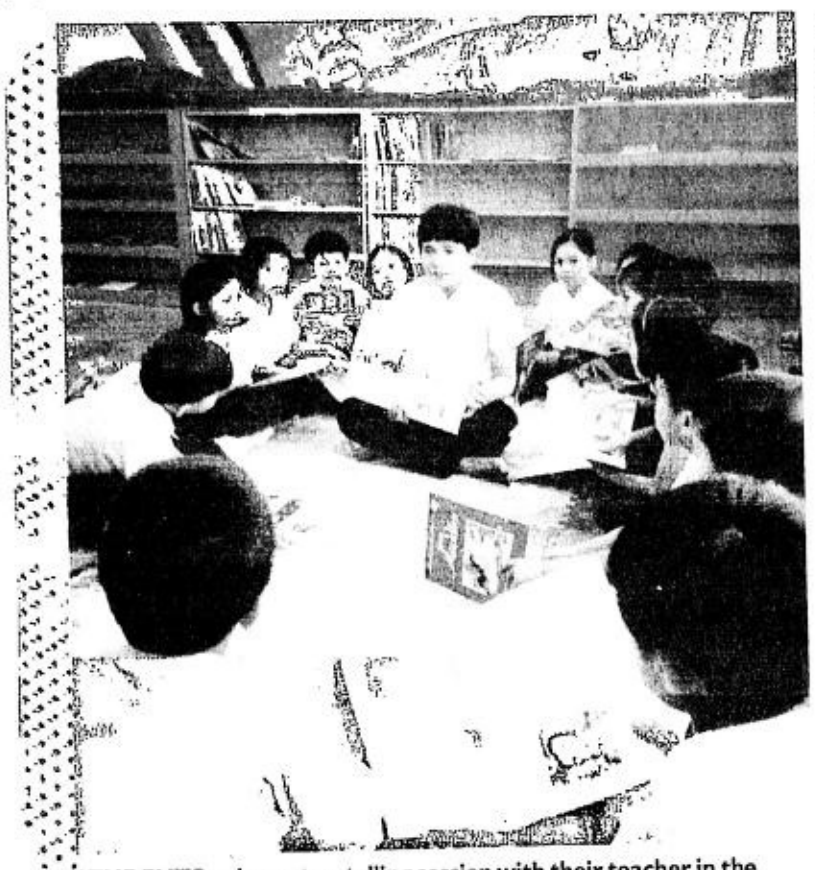


STUDENTS enjoy a storytelling session in the newly renovated and improved library donated by Cabalen.

TEODORA Alonzo Elementary School students and officials with Dori and Maritel Shani of Cabalen and Rommel Llenado of AMA CLC Edsa-Aurora-Cubao branch

STUDENTS proudly show their new storybooks. The wall mural in the background was done by Robbie Mananquil.

# Feeding and filling children's minds

BELIEVING THAT education is the best gift for a child, Cabalen restaurant spearheaded the project for the renovation of the library of the Teodora Alonzo Elementary School in Barangay Marilag, Project 4, Quezon City.

The school is an under-served institution with a total population of 750 pupils from kindergarten to Grade 6. Its 18 teachers and two non-teaching personnel serve a community composed of indigent families who earn their living as vendors, hawkers, domestic helpers and construction workers. Some parents are jobless.

The renovated library features a mural by fashion and commercial model Robbie Mananquil, his gift to the students of Teodora Alonzo.

Cabalen also donated library accessories for the kiddie corner, assorted story books and a computer set.

For the past eight years, Cabalen, the "Eat All You Can, Eat All You Want" restaurant, has conducted a month-long fund drive in December, setting aside a certain percentage of sales to help destitute children in Pampanga, Malabon and Pasig City and providing for the needs of poor students from public schools.

This year, Cabalen partnered with National Book Store Foundation and AMA CLC Edsa Aurora, Cubao branch. National Bookstore Foundation, headed by Trina Alindogan, donated 100 assorted story books for the library. AMA CLC donated training courses gift certificates on computer literacy for the 18 teachers.

With this project, Cabalen is now also a restaurant that promotes "Read All You Can and Read All You Want."

THE Shanis with National Book Store Foundation chair Trina Alindogan, school principal Dr. Arsenio Honrejas Jr., Dr. Josefina Javier of the School Division Superintendent's office and some school children

Mas makulay, mas masaya!

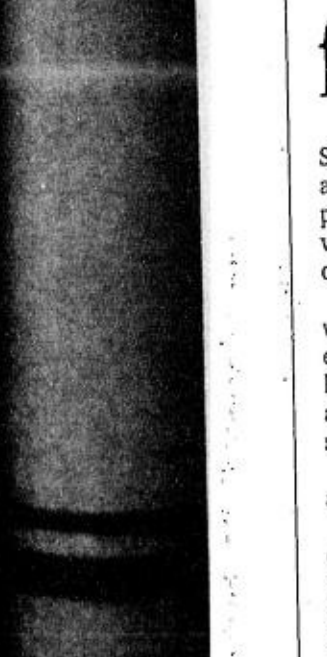
This summer, Color Your Life with Magnolia Chocolait and you can win a Sony PSP, a Nokia N-Gage, one (1) [illegible] and creatively color the attached Color Your Life Chocolait coloring material. Use any coloring medium, any coloring style!

You can also join Color Your Life summer events and enjoy free carnival rides, [illegible] fun art activities face painting, henna tattooing, and so much more.

Color Your Life summer events:
April 16 - Easter Celebration at Enchanted Kingdom, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
April 22 - Timezone, Glorietta
April 29 - Timezone, Alabang Town Center
May 6 - 8 Waves, Bulacan
May 13 - [illegible] Sta. Rosa, Laguna
May 20 - Pixie Forest, Festival Mall
May 27 - G-Box, Robinson's Place, Manila

Promo period from April 16 to June 3, 2006

Please see complete details at the back of Magnolia Chocolait 1 liter packs




# A solid home for fragile lives

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT abused children are likely to perpetrate the cycle of violence when they themselves become caregivers.

For over 40 years now, a child welfare institution has demonstrated that the cycle of violence can be halted and abandoned, neglected and hurt children can become responsible and responsive adults.

SOS Children's Village recreates a solid family environment.

The institution which has seven villages throughout the Philippines provides abandoned children and young people a home and family structure, education and other basic needs.

What sets SOS apart is that its residents are not for adoption. Instead, a family setup is recreated with a full-time house mother for households of 10-14 children.

The children learn to relate to each other as siblings guided by love and discipline, according to Lilybeth Abella, a house mother in SOS Muntinlupa.

House mothers giving a child who shows more deep-seated problems special attention, engaging him/her in a heart-to-heart talk to find out what's fueling the behavior.

When children fight, the house mother investigates and helps them settle the feud.

Each house mother does the marketing, cooking and laundry of the younger children. Transportation allowance and money for school projects are included in the monthly stipend. When funds are handled well, a house can afford little luxuries like a television set, video film rentals or new clothes on Christmas.

The SOS staff set the example by not smoking or drinking. Social drinking is allowed staff only during special occasions and when the children are not around.

SOS residents graduate from the facility at age 21 or when they finish college.

Harris, the son of blind parents who came to SOS when he was 10, graduated in 2002 as a commercial pilot.

Siblings Urvil, Anania and Leonora Ursal were surrendered by their ailing mother to SOS. Urvil now works in an international shipping company, Anania in a caregiving institution, and Leonora in a hotel in Dubai.

Abella herself grew up in SOS Tacloban, given up by her mother when she was 7 months old.

Aside from Muntinlupa and Tacloban, there are SOS villages in Davao, Iloilo, Lipa, Calbayog and Cebu. SOS Children's Villages Philippines is part of SOS-Kinderdorf International, started in 1949 by Hermann Gmeiner in Austria.

More than 40,000 children live in 439 SOS Children's Villages in 131 countries.

SOS has been the recipient of assistance from different organizations and individuals, including the recent Surf "Ang Bango ng Pasko" promo.

To help SOS Children's Village, visit www.sosphil.org or call 8070764.

# The Happy Day of Easter

## When was the Bunny 'hatched'?

THE EASTER BUNNY (KNOWN generically as the Spring Bunny in some parts of the United States) is a fantasy or mythological rabbit which leaves gifts for children at Easter (or at springtime). It originates in Western European cultures, where it is a hare rather than a rabbit.

German Protestants wanted to retain the Catholic custom of eating colored eggs for Easter, but did not want to introduce their children to the Catholic rite of fasting. Eggs were forbidden to Catholics during the fast of Lent, which was the reason for the abundance of eggs at Easter time.

The idea of an egg-laying rabbit came to the United States in the 18th century. German immigrants in the Pennsylvania Dutch area told their children about the "Osterhase". "Hase" means "hare", not rabbit, and in Northwest European folklore the "Easter Bunny" indeed is a hare, not a rabbit.

Only good children received gifts of colored eggs in the nests that they made in their caps and bonnets before Easter. Presumably, the "Osterhase" laid them when the children were not looking.

A hundred years later Jakob Grimm wrote of long-standing similar myths in Germany itself. Noting many related landmarks and customs, Grimm traced German legends of Ostara back to at least the 7th century.

According to American lore, the Easter Bunny leaves baskets of treats (including Easter eggs and assorted chocolates and candy) on Easter morning for good children. Sometimes children leave out carrots for the Easter Bunny, which is similar to the practice of leaving milk and cookies for Santa Claus.

In some places in the United States, there is a move by some toward renaming the Easter Bunny the "Spring Bunny" as an attempt at appearing religiously neutral; however, these moves have been met with criticism.

In Australia, rabbits are an invasive species and generally considered pests. A long-running campaign to replace the Easter Bunny with the Easter Bilby, a native marsupial, yielded moderate success. Easter Bilbies are a common and unremarked sight in many Australian stores around Easter. The Easter Bunny, however, remains considerably more recognized and well known than its bilby counterpart.

In France, the eggs are not laid by rabbits, but dropped from the sky by "les cloches de Pâques," flying church bells coming back from Rome where they spent Easter.

One theory holds that the original Easter Bunny myth comes from a pagan holiday which was celebrated on the Vernal Equinox. According to Pagan legend, Ostara, the goddess of spring, turned a bird into a rabbit. The rabbit was supposedly able to fly as fast as the bird could fly, but it was still disappointed that it was a rabbit and not a bird. Ostara had pity on the creature, and one day out of every year, on the Vernal Equinox, she allowed the rabbit to lay eggs like a bird. Due to the proximity of Easter and the Vernal Equinox, converted pagans continued to associate the myth with their new holiday, and the idea has been passed down ever since.

*(From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Bunny)*

## Easter expedition at Marco Polo Plaza

MARCO POLO PLAZA IS OFFERING AN Easter Expedition Package from April 12 to 16. Composed of a one-night accommodation, breakfast, Sunday brunch at the Café Marco, and late check-out up to 4 p.m., this package costs from P 3,888 nett based on double occupancy. Children 6years old and below stay and eat for free, and youngsters 7 to 12 years old pay half price only. Children of in-house guests will also enjoy the classic Easter egg hunt, scheduled craft activities, creative and full-filled games, nightly film showings and other special treats.

Located at the picturesque Nivel Hills, this newly soft opened hotel will have its grand opening soon with 329 guest rooms and suites, the Café Marco, the Pool Bar, the Lobby Lounge, a grand ballroom and 12 multi-function rooms.

For inquiries and reservations, call (6332) 253-1111 and 8888 168 toll free in Manila.

## Hopping Easter Celeb at Power Plant Mall

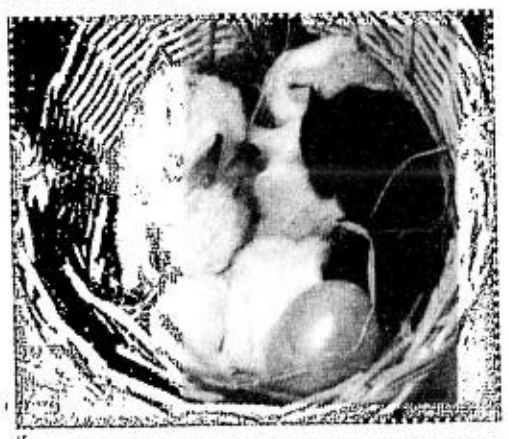
THEY'RE BACK! CUTE, CUDDLY, WARM and fuzzy bunnies await kids of all ages at Power Plant's annual Easter Sunday at The Rockwell Tent on April 16.

Now on its third year, Power Plant will once again give away free bunnies to kids who join the Easter festivities on Easter Sunday.

. The Easter celebration starts at 11 a.m. with activities like balloon sculpting, glitter tattooing, story telling, arts and crafts, and the ultimate Easter egg hunt. Hidden in the hay are Easter eggs loaded with toys and treats from Kidz Station, Crabtree & Evelyn and Chicco.

A spectacular program complete with amazing magic tricks, acrobats performing eye-popping stunts and a jaw-dropping bubble show will keep tots riveted and enthralled at the Easter fête.

No need to worry about the little ones! Children 1 to 3 years old may be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



POWERPLANT Mall's Easter bunnies

### Take home an Easter Bunny

KIDS AND TWEENS WILL HAVE SOMETHING more to look forward to come Easter Sunday—live Easter bunnies to cuddle and take home at participating Teriyaki Boy Outlets. As has been the tradition since 2003, the restaurant chain is again offering children aged 3 to 12 years a chance to win a real live bunny when they dine in participating Teriyaki Boy outlets today. Children will automatically be asked to draw from a basket of toy Easter eggs containing prizes that include Meiji chocolates, stuffed toy rabbits, as well as the real breathing animal. Easter bunnies will be given away at all Teriyaki Boy outlets except at the Promenade-Greenhills Shopping Center and Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City. There are 12 conveniently-located Teriyaki Boy outlets throughout Metro Manila and one in Baguio. Their new branches at the Paseo Center in Makati and Harbor View in Manila open on Wednesday, April 19.

# Lessons from 14 brave kids

From page H1

Greenbelt MyCinema's lounge area: barbecue, *pancit, puto, dinuguan* and *ginatan*.

Inside MyCinema, the kids met their *ates* and *kuyas*—the different members of the Lifestyle staff who presented them with special birthday gifts. The kids ripped open packages containing remote-control cars, Barbie dolls, action figures, clothes and books. Armed with bags of popcorn and drinks from Chimara, everyone settled back to enjoy a screening of "Ice Age 2: The Meltdown."

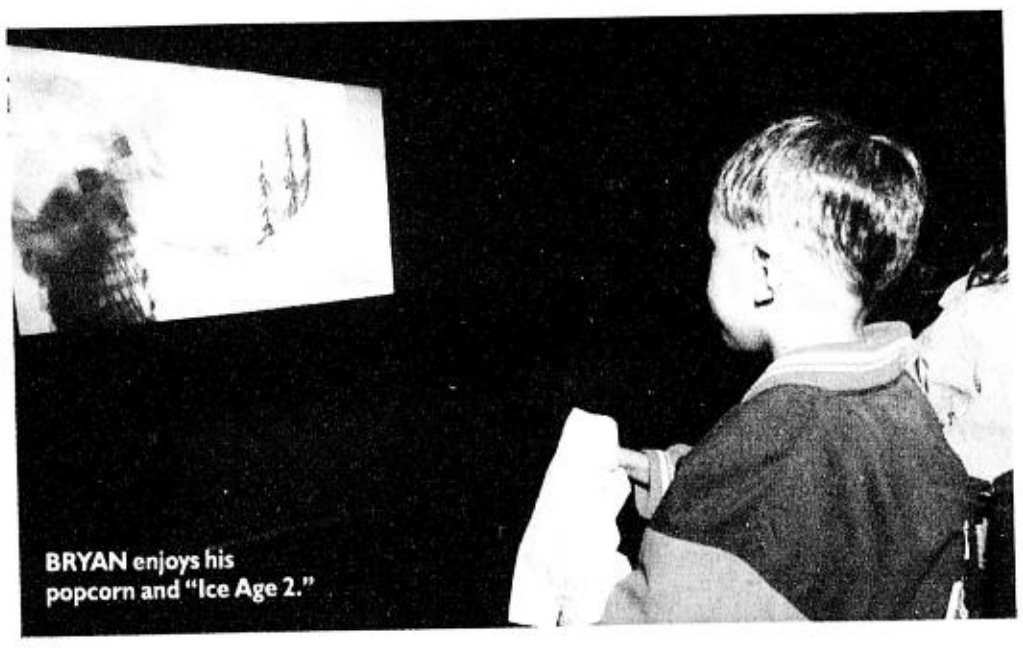
It was a big day for the kids but it was an even bigger day for the grownups. Seeing kids so young facing a dreaded disease so boldly and left us with lessons on life, time and resilience.

Brave kids? Yes, and bravehearts, too.

*To give donations for the chemotherapy needs of these children, call the Project Brave Kids hotline 0917-8115437.*

**BIG BLOWOUT.** The birthday boys

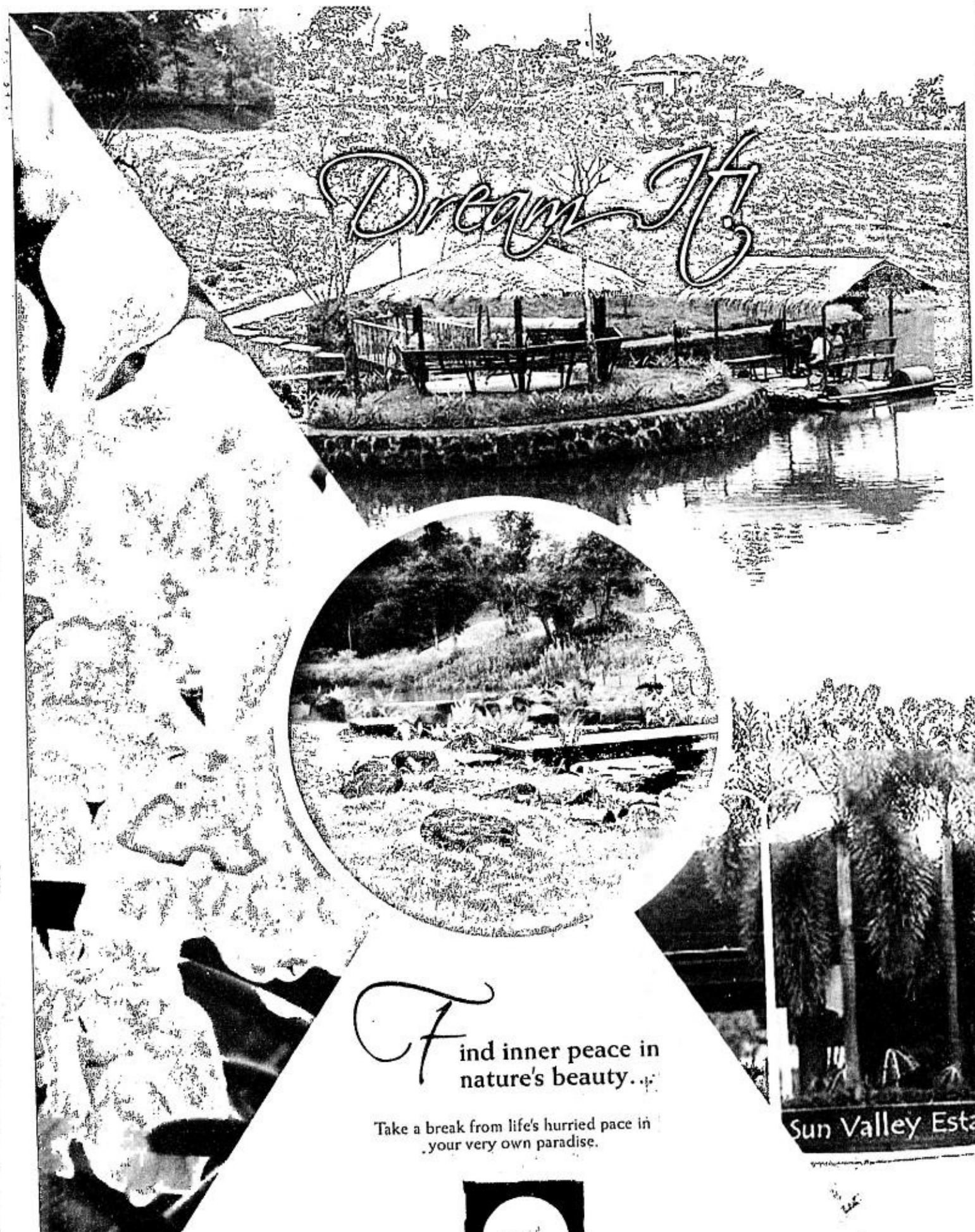
**THE BIRTHDAY** girls



**BRYAN** enjoys his popcorn and "Ice Age 2."

**SOME** members of the Lifestyle staff at MyCinema

**MOMS** are invited, too.



**PARTY** food—the barbecue, puto and kutsinta are a big hit



**CABALEN'S** special spread

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Take a break from life's hurried pace in your very own paradise.

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# CONNECTIVITY

# Reinventing Mobile Lifestyles

At the forefront of this 'communication revolution' in the country is Globe Telecom, which has pioneered innovations and services that have become standards in the industry

GO TO ANY MALL AND THE FIRST THING THAT WILL often catch your attention in the atrium area is the wide array of cell phones; model units of every brand and make, displayed for sale along with a host of other services linked to the mobile phone.

Open a newspaper, watch the television, or just even look at the cityscape while you're in the MRT and you definitely won't miss the commercials and billboards that show images of the latest cell phones and promos available from the service providers.

Every person you know or meet has a cell phone. It's a common scene to see a group of students text paragraph-length messages at such blazing speed. Office meetings and lunch get-togethers suddenly become concert halls with ringtones and polytones of the latest hit songs emanating from cell phones.

In this day and age, it's impossible to even think of a world without the mobile phone. Its influence and impact on the way people conduct their everyday lives cannot be ignored. Often, a person who loses his cell phone will feel at a total loss. The cell phone has become a person's "mobile lifebook" where important details such as contacts and relationships, photos, the most precious of messages and whatever they hold dear are kept.

With the ever changing needs of the consumer in mind, the cell phone industry continues to push barriers and provide new mobile technologies and services that allow people to always stay connected.

At the forefront of this "communication revolution" in the country is Globe Telecom which has pioneered innovations and services that have become standards in the industry.

## Pioneer of text messaging

Did you know that Globe started text messaging? Long before you could use your two thumbs adeptly in typing text messages and long before this whole country became the "Texting Capital" of the world, Globe gave people the ability to communicate using text messages. Globe's television commercial that introduced the service was unforgettable, and got its message across: a couple texting messages to each other because they were meeting up at the usual place. Finally they arrive at the destination and to everyone's surprise, the couple was revealed to be hearing impaired. And Globe helped them express themselves and reach out to each other in ways not possible before!

In the years that followed, Globe introduced more innovations and services. The country is never lacking when it comes to talent and creativity. When GSM phones arrived, Filipinos were at the forefront in creating mobile applications and contents of every conceivable type: from personal connectivity messaging, entertainment downloads, corporate solutions, to mobile commerce applications. A host of other businesses sprouted from these innovations, generating income and jobs for thousands of people.

With a Globe cell phone, you can quickly connect to the Internet and even have your own virtual office—access your e-mail, download files, capture an idea and send it across the world.

Globe contributed a lot in expanding and exploring mobile technologies and has won a string of international awards, competing against the most technologically sophisticated markets in the world, for innovations such as Share-A-Load and G-Cash.

Globe also brought together communities with shared interests like Gentxt, Globe Kababayan, Globe Girlfriends, and Globe Platinum.

## Upholding Filipino values

What can be more Filipino than the value of friendship and close family ties? Eight million Filipinos work and live overseas and their being separated from family and friends is put at ease greatly by telecommunications. As a company, Globe has introduced services and products meant to bring them all closer.

Globe's Super Sulit Deals, a host of discounted rates for local and international calls, has encouraged the Pinoy family to call more often and be together wherever they may be.

Globe also offers the only true KADA SEGUNDO charging available for local and international calls. Since they are not charged by the minute anymore, this truly provides the Filipino with affordable call rates and gives them control over what they spend whenever they make a call.

Since keeping up-to-date via text is very important to the Pinoy, Globe has given its subscribers unlimited texting with Globe Unlimitxt for as low as P10 a day. Most recently, Globe launched its P0.90 CENTAVOS TEXT RATE, which can be used to send text messages to any network in the country. Talk about connecting everybody.

As far as international connectivity is concerned, Globe offers preferential rates and unique international services made possible by its partnership with Bridge Mobile Alliance, the widest mobile network alliance in Asia. So, keeping in touch with loved ones in the Asian region is almost as affordable as a local call.

## Planet GLOBE

Only Globe international coverage spans and covers the Earth. In the past year, Globe's unprecedented investment in network expansion all over the country and around the world has resulted in unmatched global network strength, reach, and quality.

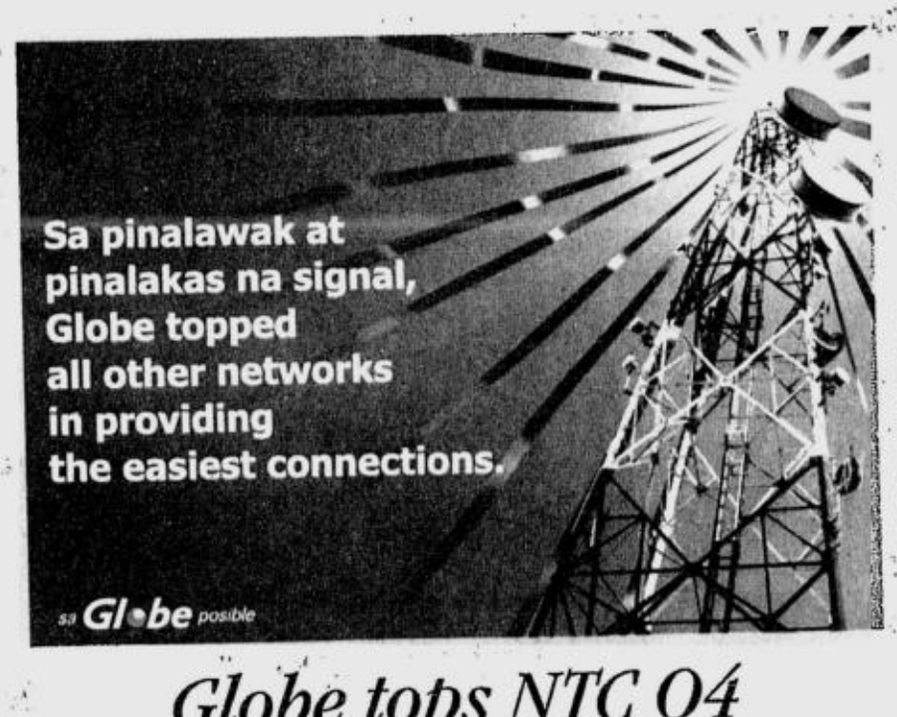
Globe subscribers can confidently travel abroad and stay connected because it offers the widest international coverage with over 400 international roaming partners in over 180 countries.

Globe is the country's only service provider with access to Iridium technology, the satellite system that covers the whole planet.

## Top Quality Network

In the 4th Quarter of 2005, Globe topped the network quality tests conducted by the National Telecommunications Commission and Philippine Chamber of Telecommunications Operators. Based on the report, 98.51 out of every 100 calls to Globe were connected on the first attempt. 97.29 of 100 calls were completed without being dropped by the network.

As Globe continues to innovate the way we connect and provide us with quality connections, it fulfills the Filipino desire to never be apart from loved ones and to always be within reach during the moments that matter.




# *Globe tops NTC Q4 network monitoring*

GLOBE TELECOM INC TOPPED THE network monitoring conducted jointly by the National Telecommunications Commission and the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunications. Operators in the fourth quarter of 2005, a joint NTC and PCTO report showed.

Among the three major mobile players, Globe's network received the highest ratings both on calls connected on the first attempt and on completing calls.

Network audit had to be done to resolve issues on traffic congestion and to determine whether the carriers were meeting the NTC performance standard.

It also addressed claims by Globe and Smart Communications Inc that Sun Cellular failed the performance benchmarks of NTC.

Based on the monitoring done by the NTC and the PCTO, the umbrella organization of Philippines telcos, 98.51 out of every 100 calls to Globe were connected on the first attempt and 97.29 out of 100 calls were completed without being dropped by the network.

Smart Communications Inc scored slightly lower with a call set-up success rate of 97.82 percent and 97.06 percent on all completion, based on documents of the NTC and PCTO.

Sun Cellular of Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc scored poorly on the set-up success rate but had a decent rating on call completion.

The tests showed Sun connected on the first attempt only 66.61 out of every 100 calls but it completed 94.22 out of every 100 calls.

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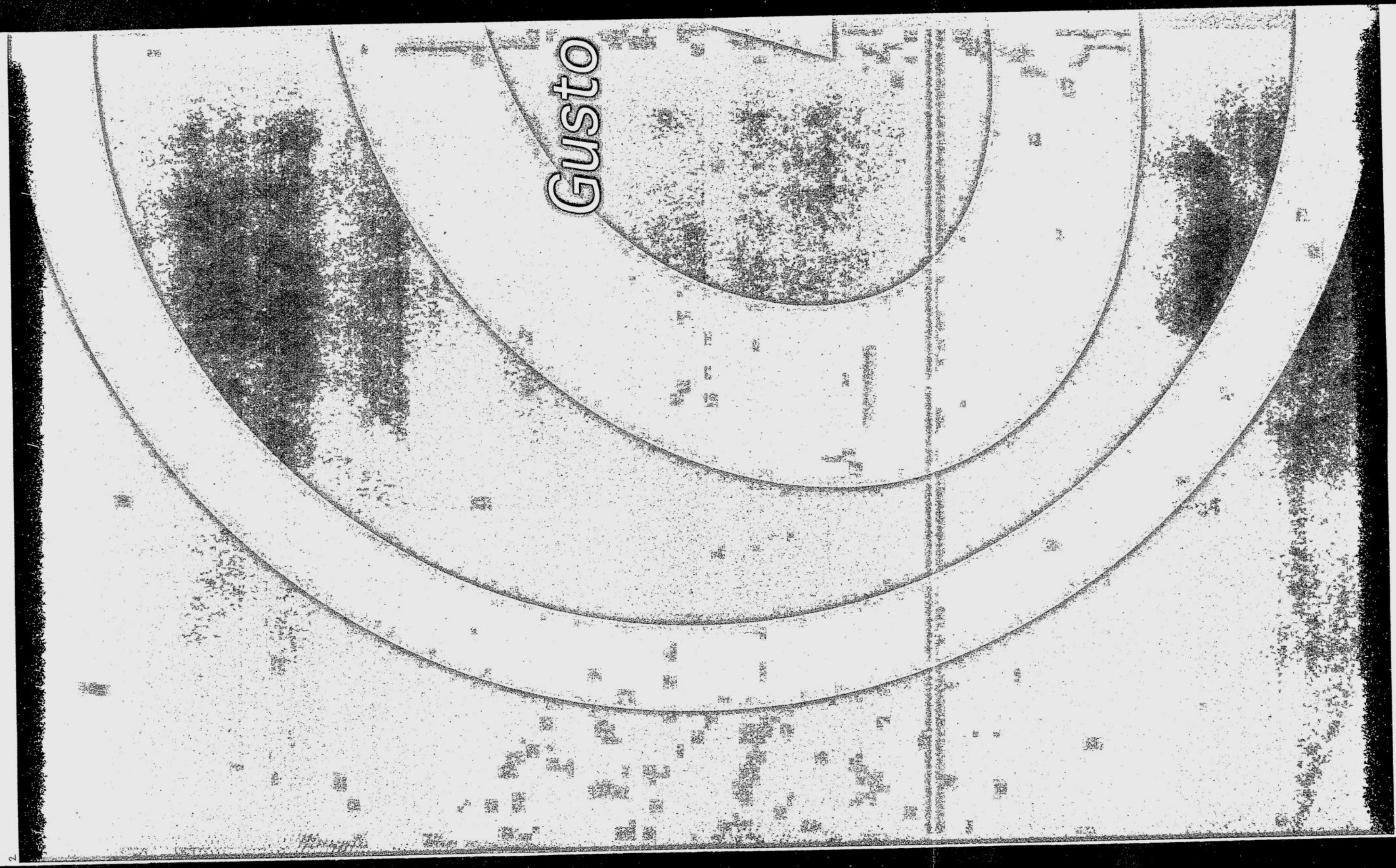
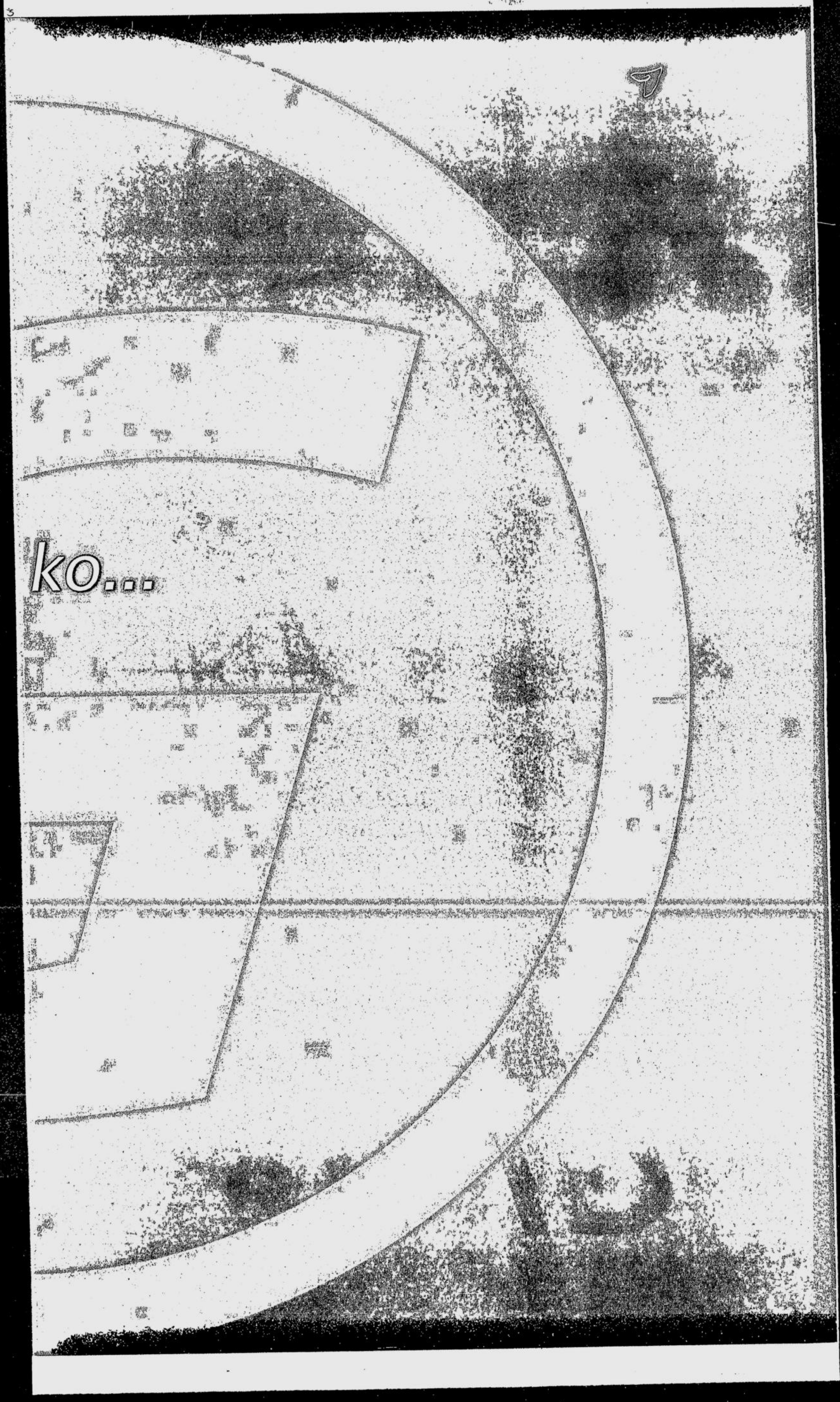

Gusto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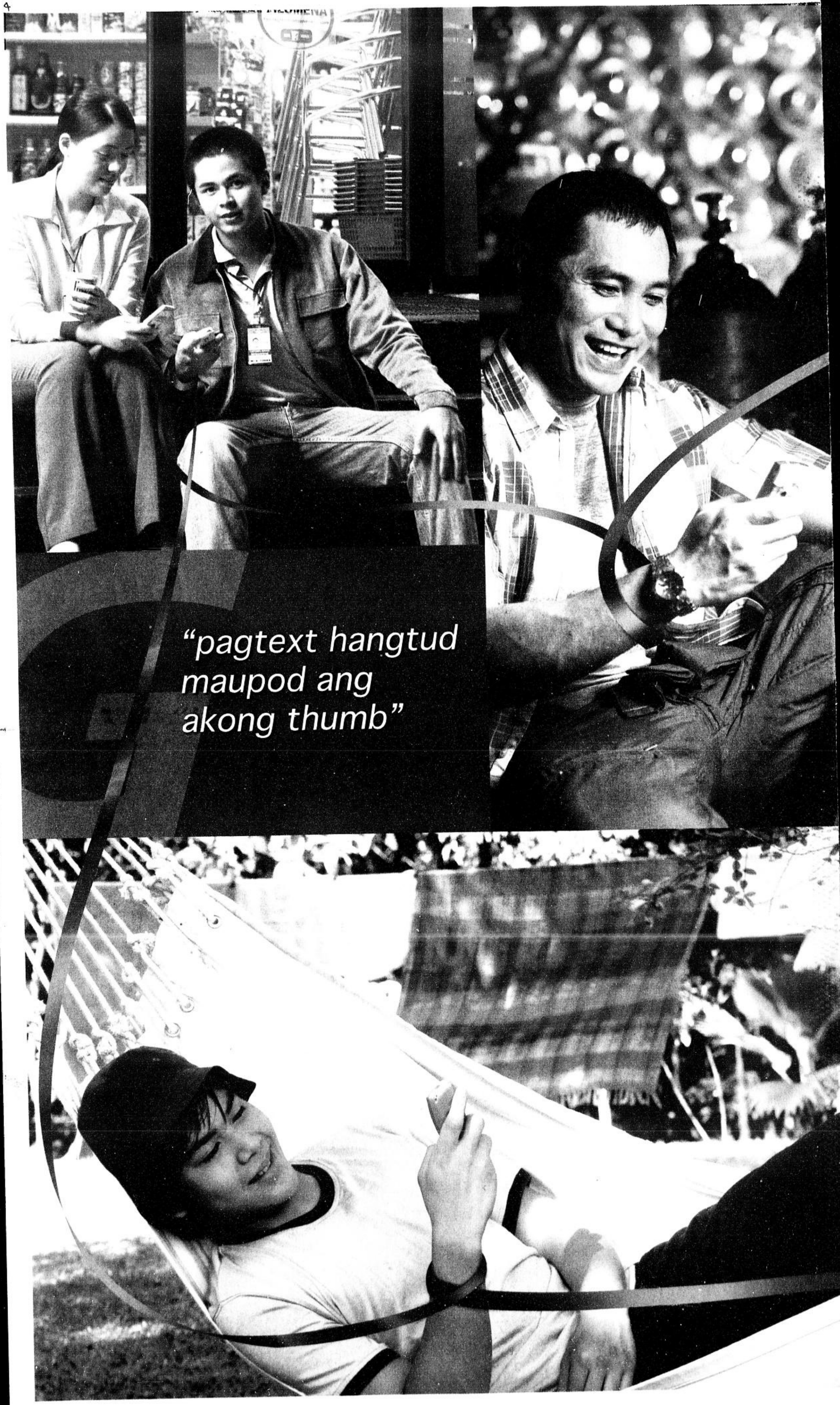
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“makatabi siya
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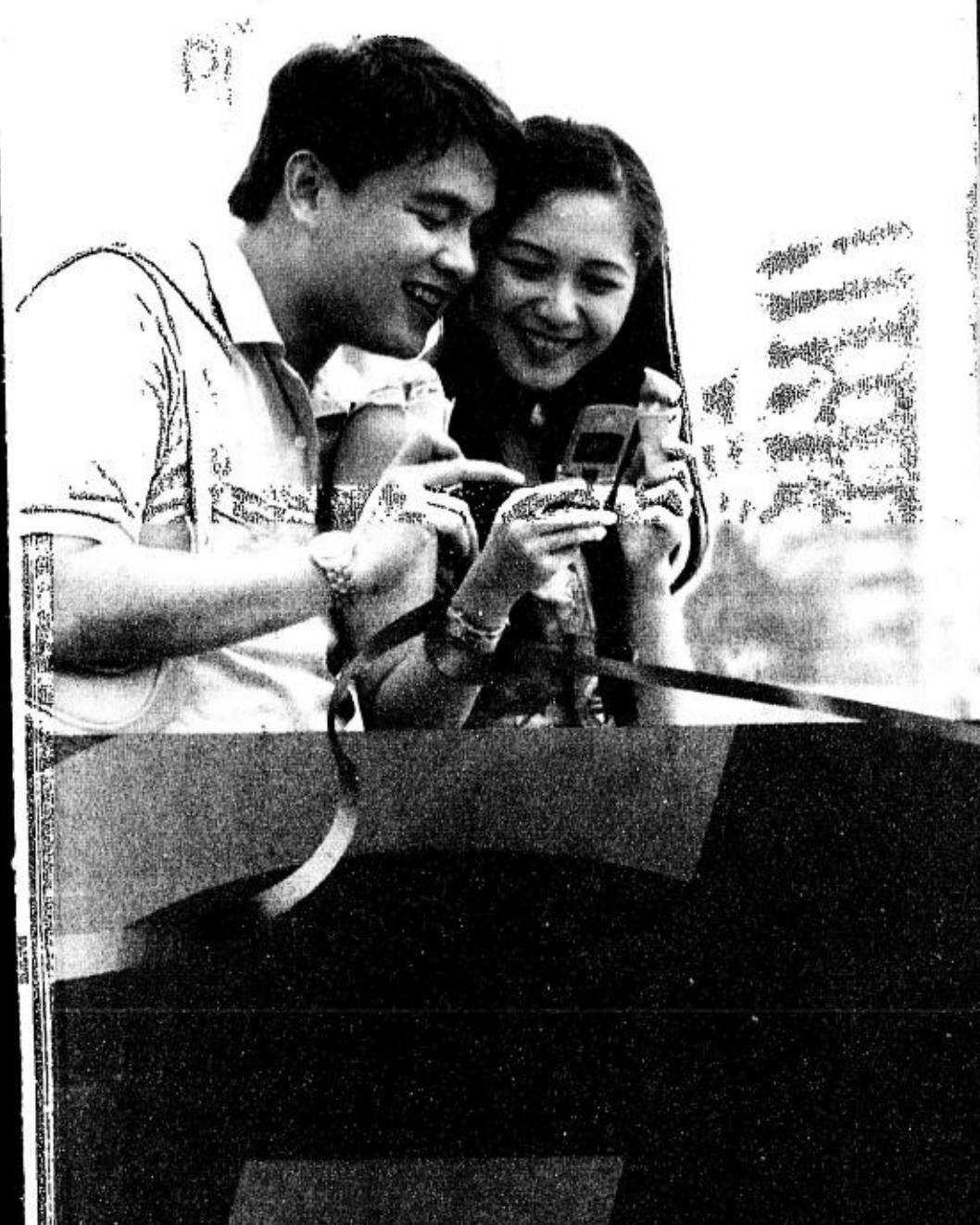
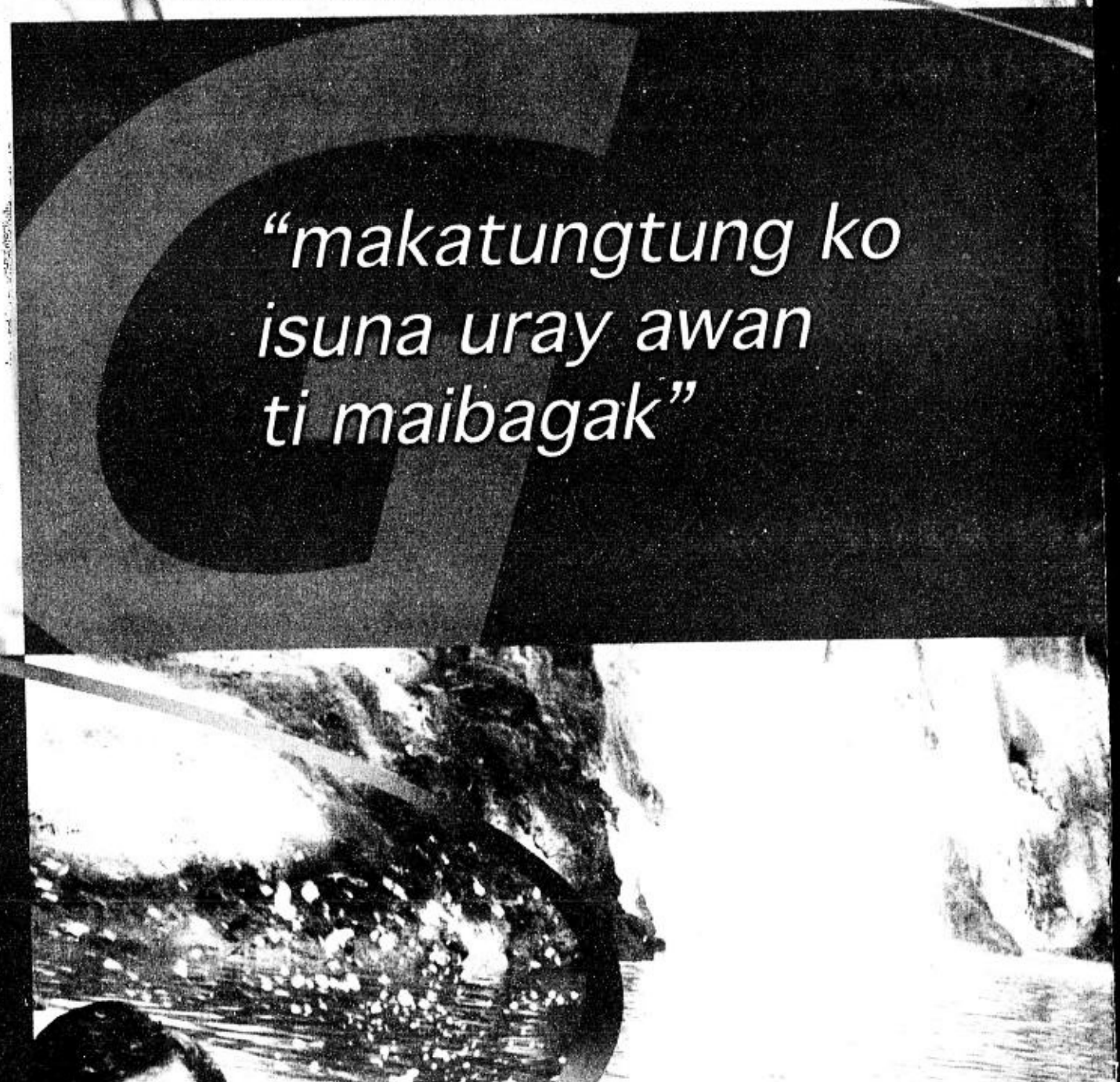
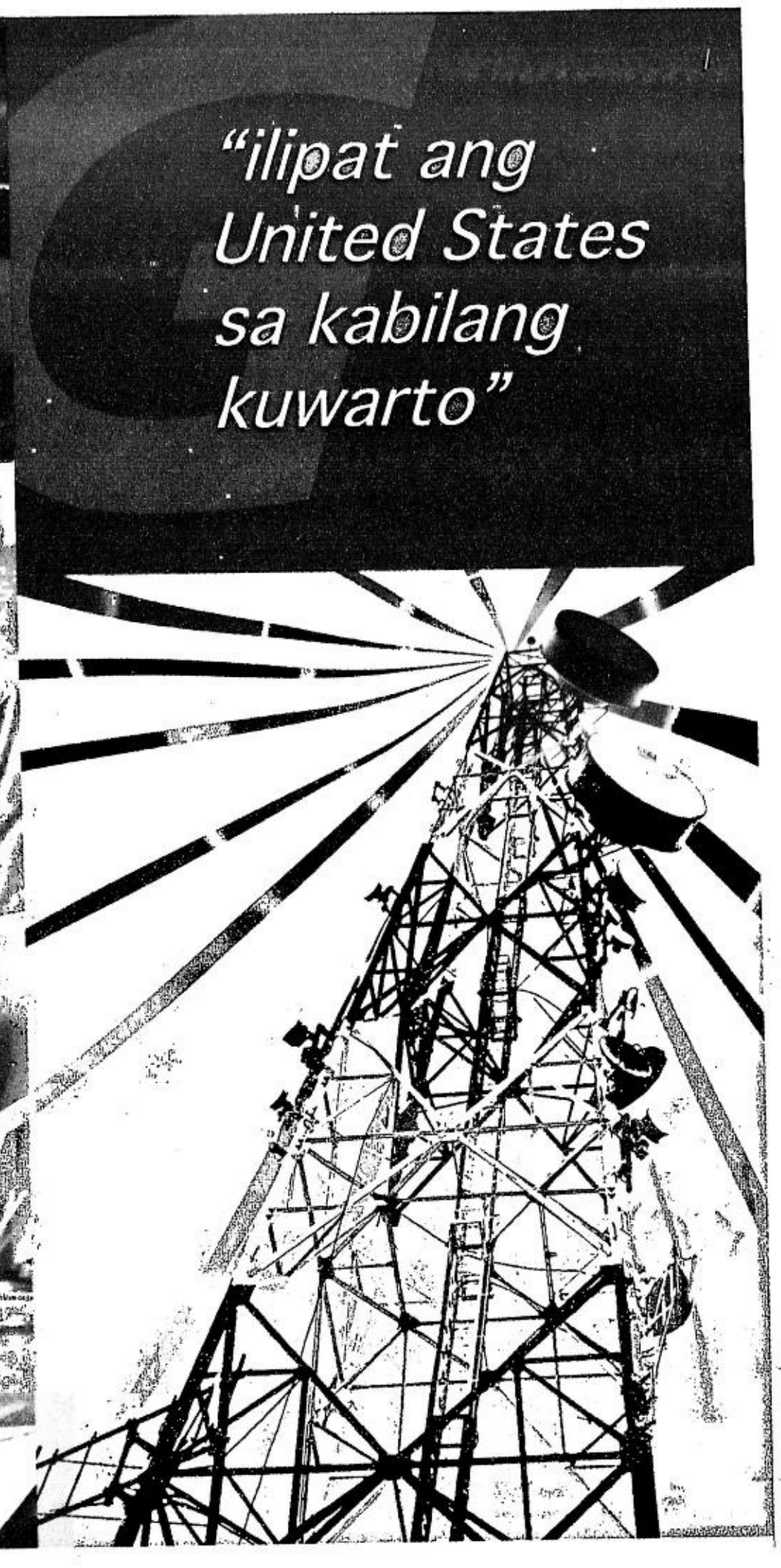




"makatungtung ko isuna uray awan ti maibagak"

"magtsismisan nang walang hanggan"




*Posible ‘yang mga gusto n’yo dahil sa mas pinalawak at pinalakas na signal, super sulit offers at widest international coverage.*

*Oo gid, wen manong, oo ba!*

# *ang lakas mo sa* Globe

# CONNECTIVITY

# 'Posible po, dahil ang lakas nyo sa Globe'

Over the years, Globe has been pulling out all stops to meet consumer needs by introducing unparalleled innovations in mobile technology based on deep understanding and insights about the Filipino, his values and priorities

THE VALUE OF EVERY PESO IN YOUR pocket has been stretched further with the Globe introduction of the P0.90 regular text rate from Globe to all networks starting today. This allows millions of Globe subscribers, prepaid and postpaid, to send regular text messages to family and friends on all networks for less than one peso.

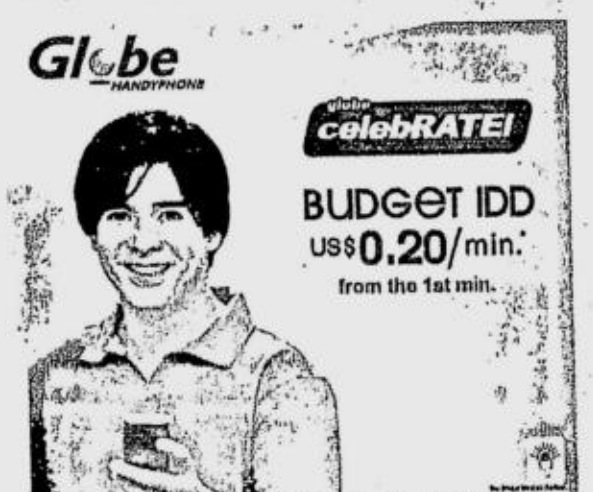
This is the first time a local telecom company is offering a non-discriminating rate that breaks down the barriers to texting. Globe has been at the forefront of making telecommunications more accessible to more subscribers.

Globe continually comes up with innovative products and services to meet the various needs of the consumers, because at Globe, the subscriber is top priority.

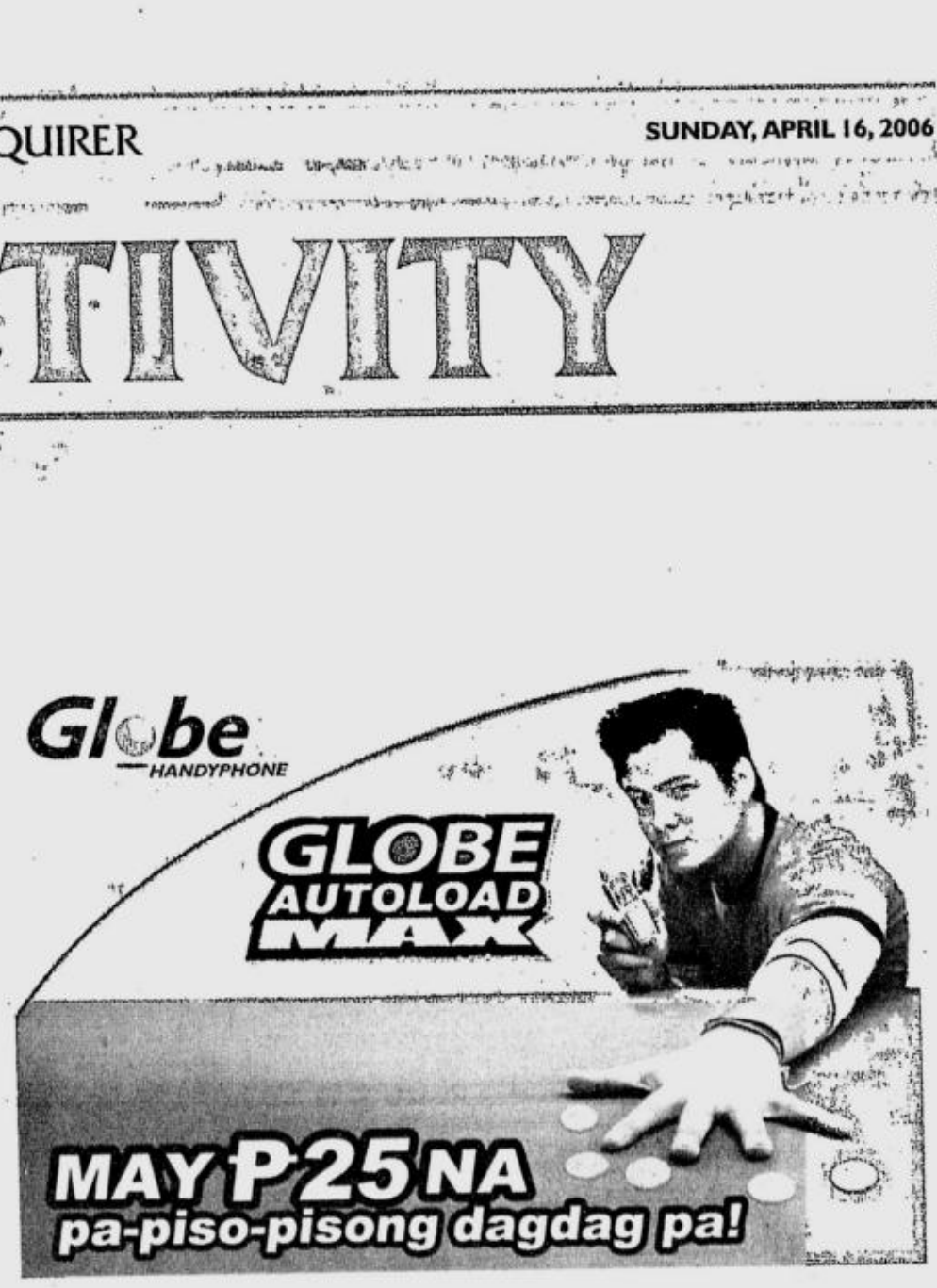
The P0.90 centavos regular text rate is the latest in a stream of Globe Super Sulit Offers following the breakthrough P0.10 per second Kada Segundo charging for local calls. Simply dial 232+10 digit Globe number of the party you're calling and get charged only for the airtime used. Globe UNLIMITXT is another Super Sulit Offer that allows subscribers to have unlimited texting for as low as P10/day. To know more just text UNLIMITXT to 2870. Super low P10 per 3 minute call enables consumers to talk longer with their loved ones by dialing 235+10 digit Globe number of the party you're calling.

On the international front, Globe leads by far with the widest international coverage and it continues to break down barriers with their Super Sulit Globe Tipid IDD Kada Segundo offer. Charging is now done per second and not by the minute for outbound calls to Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, and the United States, at only US$.003/second. Just Dial 12800 (country code)(area code)(phone).

With all these value offers, unprecedented network expansion and even more relevant and surprising innovations to come, Globe affirms its commitment to the Filipino consumers by continuously reinventing ways they can connect to the people that matter most to them.




GLOBE leads in TIPID IDD value offers like this promo that ran in 2005.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

# INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

| CODE NO. | DESCRIPTION | AREA (sq.m.) | LOCATION | Floor Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REAL ESTATE** | | | | |
| **METRO MANILA** | | | | |
| AM-JA-014 | Industrial lot (TCT No. 165600) w/ warehouse bldg. | 2,000 | Bo. San Dionisio, Parañaque City | P 13,170,000.00 |
| AM-JA-015 | 2-adjoining residential lots (TCT No. T-261538) w/ bldg. | 534.4 | Corner San Gregorio and Paz Streets, Paco | P 11,437,200.00 |
| AM-ED-018 | Residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-21176) w/ factory/warehouse bldg. | 266 | No. 762 San Ignacio St., Bgy.,Plainview, Mandaluyong City | P 3,984,700.00 |
| AM-ML-019 | Residential lot (TCT No. 245737) | 300 | Anonas St., Sta. Mesa | P 2,101,400.00 |
| AM-ML-020 | Residential lot (TCT No. C-300082) | 338 | San Roque, Navotas | P 459,500.00 |
| AM-ML-136 | House & lot / TCT No. V-77215 | 180 | No. 5148 San Gregorio St., Brgy. T. De Leon, Valenzuela City | P 510,000.00 |
| AM-MC-040 | Residential lot (TCT No. V-59978) w/ shop factory bldgs. & 2-candle moulding machines. | 150 | 57 Faustino St., Lawang Bato (now Punturin), Valenzuela City | P 336,900.00 |
| AM-ML-155 | Residential lot / TCT No. 348039 | 276 | Andora vs. Jackson Sts., Vista Verde Subd., Bo. Llano, Caloocan City | P 530,500.00 |
| AM-ML-156 | Residential lot/ TCT No. 348032 | 190 | Andora vs. Jackson Sts., Vista Verde Subd., Bo. Llano, Caloocan City | P 341,800.00 |
| AM-MC-134a | Interior residential lot /TCT No. 262159 | 436 | Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas | P 436,000.00 |
| AM-MC-134b | House & lot /TCT No. 262158 | 242 | Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas | P 242,000.00 |
| AM-ML-38 | Residential/industrial lot/ TCT No. C-300082 with factory bldg. & impvts. | 338 | 1304 Int. M. Naval St., Navotas | P 506,000.00 |
| AM-MC-153 | Residential lot / TCT No. 75082 | 236 | Lot 1 Blk. 18 cor. Lots 13 & 19, Golden Acres Subd., Talon Singko, Las Piñas | P 409,800.00 |
| AM-PI-158 | Residential lot / TCT No. 240282 | 124 | Interior Suter St., Sta. Ana, Manila | P 520,800.00 |
| AM-JA-160 | House & lot / TCT No. 157133 | 354 | Gov. A. Santos St., BF Homes, Parañaque City | P 2,689,000.00 |
| AM-JA-002 | Two adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. 164323 & 164324) w/ bldg. | 787 | Corner R. Tirona and T. Teodoro Street, B.F. Homes, Paranaque City. | P 6,500,000.00 |
| AM-JA-074 | Five (5) parcels of residential lots / TCT Nos. T-267596 to 267599 w/bldg & imp | 646 | Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila | P 13,200,000.00 |
| AM-JA-075 | Six (6) adjoining parcels of residential lots / TCT Nos. 14906-14909, 13919-13920 w/ bldg & imp | 1,812 | Road Lot 5, Tindalo St. & Major Posadas Ave. Doña Rosario Heights Subd. Sucat, Muntinlupa City | P 9,505,200.00 |
| AM-JA-113a | Industrial lot / TCT No. 2311 with warehouse w/ bldg & imp | 2,000 | KM 19, Interior East Service Rd. South Super Hi-way, San Dionisio, Parañaque | P 17,548,300.00 |
| AM-JA-274 | 3 adjoining untitled lots (T.D Nos.0408,0406 & 0404) total area of 2,730 m2 with ice plant bldg. & imp. | 2,730 | Brgy. Langurbanwa, Numancia | P 3,874,400.00 |
| **BACOLOD** | | | | |
| AM-CP-137 | 2 parcels of adjoining commercial/residential lots TCT No. T-182764 & T-182765) with ricemill bldg. | 6,995 | National Road, Bgy. Sum-ag | P 4,460,975.00 |
| **BAGUIO** | | | | |
| AM-CP-138 | Two (2) adjoining interior parcels of vacant lots covered by TCT Nos. T-79824 & 79823 | 18,517 | Bo. Lucban (now Bo. Amblong), Baguio City | P 15,000,000.00 |
| **BATAAN** | | | Sta. Monica Homes, Wiswis, Camaya, Mariveles | |
| AM-ED-021 | House & lot (TCT Nos. T-229503 & T-229504) | 100 | Lot 7 & 10 Blk. 32 | P 212,300.00 |
| AM-ED-022 | House & lot (TCT No. T-229490) | 50 | Lot 45 Blk. 8 | P 151,200.00 |
| AM-ED-023 | House & lot (TCT No. T-229497) | 50 | Lot 18 Blk. 20 | P 129,400.00 |
| AM-ED-024 | House & lot (TCT No. T-229486) | 50 | Lot 11 Blk. 9 | P 120,800.00 |
| AM-ED-025 | House & lot (TCT No. T-229483) | 50 | Lot 6 Blk 9 | P 120,800.00 |
| AM-ED-026 | House & lot (TCT No. T-229472) | 50 | Lot 12 Blk. 9 | P 120,800.00 |
| AM-ED-027 | House & lot (TCT No. T-229492) | 50 | Lot 14 Blk. 20 | P 118,500.00 |
| AM-ED-028 | House & lot (TCT No. T-229471) | 50 | Lot 8 Blk. 8 | P 111,900.00 |
| AM-ED-178 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229481 | 100 | Lot 15 Blk. 20 | P 210,000.00 |
| AM-ED-176 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229482 | 50 | Lot 10 Blk. 9 | P 116,300.00 |
| AM-ED-173 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229484 | 50 | Lot 5 Blk. 9 | P 121,000.00 |
| AM-ED-174 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229485 | 50 | Lot 3 Blk. 9 | P 116,300.00 |
| AM-ED-182 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229480 | 50 | Lot 27 Blk. 20 | P 122,500.00 |
| AM-ED-169 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229491 | 50 | Lot 7 Blk. 20 | P 120,000.00 |
| AM-ED-175 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229494 | 50 | Lot 10 Blk. 20 | P 129,300.00 |
| AM-ED-167 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229495 | 50 | Lot 15 Blk. 32 | P 145,000.00 |
| AM-ED-166 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229496 | 50 | Lot 22 Blk. 20 | P 89,100.00 |
| AM-ED-165 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229499 | 50 | Lot 6 Blk. 8 | P 95,100.00 |
| AM-ED-164 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229500 | 50 | Lot 8 Blk. 9 | P 123,000.00 |
| AM-ED-163 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229501 | 50 | Lot 7 Blk. 9 | P 129,300.00 |
| AM-ED-162 | House & lot / TCT No. T-229502 | 50 | Lot 4 Blk. 9 | P 95,100.00 |
| AM-ED-185 | Three(3) parcels of residential lots / TCT Nos. | 150 | Lot 35, 38-39 Blk. 31 | P 262,700.00 |
| AM-ED-184 | Two (2) parcels of residential lots / TCT Nos. | 100 | Lot 25 & 28 Blk 20 | P 197,000.00 |
| AM-DE-139 | Two (2) residential lots/ TCT Nos. 135112 & 135464 | 2,037 | Daan, Bilolo, Orani | P 763,900.00 |
| **BATANGAS** | | | | |
| AM-ML-029 | 4-agricultural lots (TCT Nos.T-118608, 118609, 118610, and 118611) | 88,248 | Natu, Rosario | P 4,964,000.00 |
| AM-JA-030 | Vacant lot (TCT No. T-53084) | 159 | D. Silang St., Poblacion | P 2,067,000.00 |
| AM-ML-031 | 2-adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-118605 & 118606) w/ bldg. | 517 | Fortune Village, Brgy. Poblacion, Taysan | P 1,541,000.00 |
| AM-MC-032 | Agro-industrial lot (TCT No. T-127899) w/ bldg. | 4,545 | Bo. Bawi, Padre Garcia | P 1,098,200.00 |
| AM-MC-033 | House & lot (TCT No. T-89539) | 325 | No. 220, Liza Compound, Pob 14, San Roque, Sto. Tomas | P 854,400.00 |
| AM-ML-034 | House & lot (TCT No. T-141654) | 60 | Lot 11, Blk 3, Transville Homes Subd., Banay-Banay, Lipa City | P 198,900.00 |
| AM-ML-132 | House & lot / TCT 140599 | 44 | Lot 10 Blk 11 Transville Homes Subd., Banay-Banay, Lipa City | P 131,300.00 |
| AM-ED-188 | Industrial lot / TCT No. 53085 with bldgs. & impvts./ Granty Crane foundation. | 18,139 | Brgy. Atlangilan, Batangas City | P 27,892,900.00 |
| AM-DE-005a | Vacant industrial lot /TCT No. T-100654 | 97,314 | Lumang Calzada, Calaca | P 87,582,600.00 |
| AM-DE-005b | Vacant industrial lot /TCT No. T-100653 | 30,488 | Lumang Calzada, Calaca | P 27,403,200.00 |
| AM-JA-121 | Industrial/commercial lot / TCT No. T-93491 with two-storey hospital bldg. and improvements | 7,505 | Maharlika Hi-way, Bgy. 1, Sto. Tomas | P 40,000,000.00 |
| **BULACAN** | | | | |
| AM-PY-035 | 3-parcels of agricultural lot (TCT No. T-162317, T-162318, T-162319) w/ bldg. | 21,533 | Brgy., Malang Tubig, Baliwag | P 12,137,100.00 |
| AM-CP-036 | Commercial-residential lot (TCT No. T-118053) w/ bldgs | 2,999 | Tadeo St., Poblacion, Bustos | P 8,334,000.00 |
| AM-CP-037 | Industrial-residential lot (TCT No. T-170606) w/ bldg. | 2,593 | Sto. Nino St., Poblacion, Bustos, | P 4,000,600.00 |
| AM-MC-038 | Industrial lot (TCT No. 444211) | 1,276 | Lot 4-C, Blk. 1 cor. New York & Atlanta Sts., Meycauayan Inds., Subd. 3, Meycauayan | P 3,981,200.00 |
| AM-ML-039 | House and lot (TCT No. V-77215) | 180 | Lot 10, Blk. 8, No. 5148 San Gregorio St., Brgy T. De Leon, Valenzuela City | P 382,500.00 |
| AM-PI-041 | Vacant lot (TCT No. T-295185) | 200 | Lopez Jaena St., Cityland Green Breeze Village I, Bo. Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria | P 120,000.00 |
| **CAVITE** | | | GrottoVille Homes, Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte | |
| AM-RT-042 | House and lot (TCT No. T-370553) | 49 | Lot 1 Blk. 1 | P 278,100.00 |
| AM-RP-043 | House and lot (TCT No. 418450) | 43 | Lot 18 Blk. 1 | P 124,500.00 |
| AM-MR-044 | House and lot (TCT No. T-373670) | 40 | Lot 6 Blk. 1 | P 159,600.00 |
| AM-CP-247 | Agricultural lot / TCT No. T-136507 with poultry building and improvements | 40,000 | Brgy. Lambakin, San Miguel | P 6,268,160.00 |
| AM-PI-198 | House & lot / TCT No. T-385268 | 373 | No. 267 Kaybiga Extension Road, Bgy. San Gabriel, Sta. Maria | P 249,300.00 |
| AM-RP-193 | Two (2) adjoining agro-industrial lots/ TCT Nos. 421182 & 421183 with bldg. & imprvmnts. | 31,400 | Brgy. Santol, Balagtas | P 10,554,100.00 |
| AM-CP-195 | Residential lot TCT No.T-357145m | 120 | Along Kansas St, Ciudad Grande North Subd., Ph 2, Bos. Banga & Iawa, Meycauayan | P 187,200.00 |
| | | | Philhomes Ville I, Toclong, Kawit | |
| AM-MR-045 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1101809) | 32 | Lot 20 Blk. 11 | P 232,800.00 |
| AM-CB-046 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1135026) | 32 | Lot 9 Blk. 10 | P 201,300.00 |
| AM-CB-047 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1135025) | 32 | Lot 42 Blk. 11 | P 177,400.00 |
| AM-CB-048 | House & lot (TCT No. 1101808) | 32 | Lot 7 Blk. 11 | P 157,000.00 |
| AM-FD-049 | House & lot (TCT No. T-1087340) | 32 | Lot 25 Blk. 11 | P 138,900.00 |
| AM-CP-050 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1101806) | 32 | Lot 6 Blk. 11 | P 136,300.00 |
| AM-MR-051 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1101807) | 32 | Lot 8 Blk. 10 | P 121,600.00 |
| AM-MC-052 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1088686) | 32 | Lot 43 Blk. 11 | P 117,400.00 |
| | | | Regal Homes, Brgy. Alapan I, Imus | |
| AM-RP-054 | House & lot (TCT No. T-1131447) | 40 | Lot 7 Blk. 23A | P 197,700.00 |
| AM-RP-056 | House & lot (TCT No. T-1131446) | 40 | Lot 6 Blk. 23A | P 181,300.00 |
| AM-CP-050 | House & lot (TCT No. T-1133417) | 59 | Lot 19, Blk 53, corner Bataan and Sapphire Sts., Holiday Homes, Subd., Bucutan, Gen Trias | P 318,800.00 |
| AM-JA-061 | Industrial lot (TCT No.T-146811) w/ factory bldgs. | 6,985 | Bo. Talbon, Kawit | P 17,159,400.00 |
| AM-ED-062 | Industrial (TCT No 891662) w/ bldgs. | 1,500 | Sterling Technopark, Bo. Maguyan, Silang | P 10,111,800.00 |
| AM-RT-063 | Residential lot (TCT No.T-36905) | 1,500 | Bo Irufun Tagaytay City | P 2,266,300.00 |
| AM-DE-064 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1109645) | 180 | No. 143, Sampaloc St., Justinville Subd., Bacoor | P 971,000.00 |
| AM-MR-066 | Residential lot (TCT No.T-979115) | 200 | Greenbreeze Subd., Lancaan, Dasmarinas | P 189,000.00 |
| AM-MR-067 | House & lot (TCT No.T-1089138) | 55 | Lot 5, Block 9, Satellite Homes III, Brgy., San Jose, Dasmarinas | P 173,400.00 |
| AM-ML-068 | House & lot (TCT No.T-68320) | 75 | Lot 7, Block 3, Tradition Homes, Luciano, Trece Martirez City | P 171,100.00 |
| AM-MC-214 | Residential lot / TCT No.T-899528 | 216 | Lot 13 Blk. 7 Cherry St., Greenfield Subd. Bo. Silangan, Rosario | P 388,800.00 |
| AM-MC-215 | Residential lot / TCT No.T-896707 | 216 | Lot 11 Blk. 7 Cherry St., Greenfield Subd., Bo. Silangan, Rosario | P 388,800.00 |
| **COTABATO** | | | | |
| AM-JA-217 | Commercial/residential lot / TCT No. T-105909 with bldg. and improvements | 901 | Poblacion, M'lang | P 1,742,200.00 |
| AM-JA-225 | House & lot / TCT No. T-105911 | 500 | Sudapin, Kidapawan City | P 1,248,400.00 |
| AM-JA-226 | Two (2) parcels of adjoining agricultural lots TCT No. T-105910 | 164,586 | Lot Nos. 42 & 115, Gayola, Kidapawan | P 703,500.00 |
| **DAVAO CITY** | | | | |
| AM-ED-070 | 3-contiguous residential lots (TCT Nos. T-359589, T-359590 & T-359591) | 2,235 | Tacunan Road, Catalunan Grande, Davao City | P 3,126,800.00 |
| | | | Kristina Homes Subd., Lizada, Toril, Davao | |
| AM-RT-262 | House & lot / TCT T-347755 | 110 | Lot 23 Blk 1 | P 126,600.00 |
| AM-RT-263 | House & lot / TCT T-347752 | 110 | Lot 35 Blk. 3 | P 126,600.00 |
| AM-RT-265 | House & lot / TCT T-347748 | 110 | Lot 34 Blk. 3, | P 126,600.00 |
| AM-RT-266 | House & lot / TCT T-347754 | 110 | Lot 18 Blk. 5 | P 126,600.00 |
| AM-RT-267 | House & lot / TCT T-347753 | 110 | Lot 37 Blk. 3 | P 126,600.00 |
| AM-RT-268 | House & lot / TCT T-347749 | 110 | Lot 15 Blk. 5 | P 126,600.00 |
| AM-JA-223 | Agro-industrial lot / TCT NO. T-52206 | 63,816 | Brgy. Babac, Malalag, Davao del Sur | P 11,970,000.00 |
| AM-DE-222 | Industrial lot / TCT NO. T-193659 w/bldg & imp | 595 | Miraflores Subd., Tagum City | P 635,000.00 |
| AM-JA-099 | House & lot / TCT No. T-53895 | 1,122 | Purok 1, Padilla Compound, Rizal Ave. Interior, Poblacion Zone II, Digos City | P 1,508,600.00 |
| **IRIGA CITY** | | | | |
| AM-CP-218 | Three (3) adjoining commercial lots (TCT No. 2004 2005, & 2006 with hotel bldg. and other imprv. | 5,154 | San Francisco, Iriga City | P 37,975,700.00 |

| CODE NO. | DESCRIPTION | AREA (sq.m.) | LOCATION | Floor Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AM-CP-219 | Residential lots / TCT No. 2003 | 7,736 | San Juan III | P 3,417,800.00 |
| **GEN. SANTOS CITY** | | | | |
| AM-DE-071 | Residential lot (TCT No.T-99815) | 10,000 | Bo. Tambler, Gen Santos City | P 4,500,000.00 |
| AM-DE-073 | Residential lot (TCT No. T-99816 w/ 1-storey duplex bldg. & 1-storey res't. bldg. | 400 | Paralejas Subd., City Heights | P 815,900.00 |
| **LAGUNA** | | | St. Joseph Village 6, Brgy., Butong, Cabuyao | |
| AM-FC-072 | House & lot (TCT No.T-627973) | 40 | Lot 15 Blk. 6 | P 207,000.00 |
| AM-MR-074 | House & lot (TCT No.T-616399) | 40 | Lot 32 Blk. 4 | P 156,600.00 |
| AM-PI-076 | House & lot (TCT No.T-616400) | 40 | Lot 82 Blk. 3 | P 152,500.00 |
| AM-RT-269 | House & lot (TCT No.T-616407) | 47 | Lot 9 Blk. 8 | P 229,000.00 |
| AM-PI-077 | House & lot (TCT No.T-605766) | 40 | Lot 10 Blk. 8 | P 130,600.00 |
| AM-MR-078 | House & lot (TCT No.T-584429) | 40 | Lot 12 Blk. 8 | P 125,000.00 |
| AM-DE-079 | House & lot (TCT No.T-599208) | 40 | Lot 16 Blk. 8 | P 114,500.00 |
| | | | St. Joseph Village 5, Bo. Butong, Cabuyao | |
| AM-CB-080 | House & lot (TCT No.T-627974) | 40 | L 18, B-5, St. Joseph Village 5, Bo. Butong, Cabuyao | P 168,200.00 |
| AM-MR-082 | House & lot (TCT No.T-616397) | 80 | L 2, B-15, St. Joseph Village 4, Bo. Butong, Cabuyao | P 239,400.00 |
| AM-ML-083 | Residential lot (TCT No.T-200189) w/ bldg. | 97 | Bonifacio St., Poblacion, Lumban | P 1,252,800.00 |
| AM-DE-084 | Residential lot (TCT No.T-613392) w/ bldg. | 106 | Bergandino Subd., Brgy. Magsaysay, San Pedro | P 375,500.00 |
| AM-FD-238 | House & lot / TCT No. T-536564 | 66 | Lot 23 Blk 2 San Carlos Village, Brgy. Banay-Banay, Cabuyao | P 217,900.00 |
| AM-JA-290 | Industrial lot (TCT No. T-231466) w/ bldg., facilities & machinery & equipment | 24,294 | 117 Progress Ave. corner Industry Drive, Carmelray Industrial Subd., Canlubang | P 169,543,900.00 |
| **MISAMIS ORIENTAL** | | | | |
| AM-JA-262 | Industrial lot / TCT No. T-21651 w/ bldg. & imp., machinery & equipment for Oleo Chemical Processing. | 8,185 | Bgy. Casinglot, Tagoloan | P 316,346,600.00 |
| **NUEVA ECIJA** | | | Vista Amor Subd., Bangad, Cabanatuan City | |
| AM-PY-085 | House & lot (TCT No. T-119918) | 100 | Lot 14 Blk. 1 | P 346,500.00 |
| AM-PY-086 | House & lot (TCT No. T-119919) | 100 | Lot 26 Blk. 1 | P 342,700.00 |
| AM-PY-087 | House & lot (TCT No. T-119920) | 100 | Lot 18 Blk. 1 | P 327,500.00 |
| AM-PY-088 | House & lot (TCT No. T-119922) | 100 | Lot 19 Blk. 1 | P 313,600.00 |
| AM-PY-089 | House & lot (TCT No. T-116962) | 100 | Lot 7 Blk. 2 | P 310,000.00 |
| AM-PY-090 | House & lot (TCT No. T-119921) | 100 | Lot 20 Blk. 1 | P 301,200.00 |
| AM-PY-092 | House & lot (TCT No. T-116963) | 100 | Lot 45 Blk. 2 | P 242,300.00 |
| AM-PY-093 | House & lot (TCT No. T-114462) | 100 | Lot 21 Blk. 2 | P 235,900.00 |
| AM-PY-272 | House & lot / TCT No. 116960 | 100 | Lot 16 Blk. 1 | P 297,100.00 |
| AM-PY-275 | House & lot / TCT No. T-116074 | 100 | Lot 19 Blk. 2 | P 273,200.00 |
| AM-PY-277 | House & lot / TCT No. T-116071 | 100 | Lot 27 Blk. 2 | P 297,100.00 |
| | | | Pabalan Subd., Abar 1st, San Jose City | |
| AM-MC-147a | Residential lot / TCT No. 12490 | 283 | Lot 118 | P 56,600.00 |
| AM-MC-147b | Residential lot / TCT No. 12491 | 283 | Lot 117 | P 56,600.00 |
| AM-MC-147c | Residential lot / TCT No. 12493 | 198 | Lot 98 | P 39,600.00 |
| AM-MC-147d | Residential lot / TCT No. 12495 | 198 | Lot 92 | P 39,600.00 |
| | | | Magno Subd., Santo Cristo, San Isidro | |
| AM-MC-095 | Residential lot / TCT No. NT-291873 | 300 | Lot 1213-B-5 | P 112,500.00 |
| | Residential lot / TCT No. NT-291874 | 300 | Lot 1213-B-6 | P 112,500.00 |
| | Residential lot / TCT No. NT-291875 | 300 | Lot 1213-B-7 | P 112,500.00 |
| | Residential lot / TCT No. NT-291876 | 300 | Lot 1213-B-11 | P 112,500.00 |
| | Residential lot /TCT No. NT-291877 | 300 | Lot 1213-B-13 | P 112,500.00 |
| | Residential lot / TCT No. NT-291878 | 300 | Lot 1213-B-16 | P 112,500.00 |
| | Residential lot / TCT No. NT-291880 | 300 | Lot 1213-B-19 | P 112,500.00 |
| | | | Sto. Cristo, San Isidro | |
| AM-MC-094 | Agricultural lot / TCT No. NT-291871 | 2,599 | Lot 1083- E | P 779,700.00 |
| | Agricultural lot / TCT No. NT-291872 | 4,505 | Lot 1085 | P 1,351,500.00 |
| AM-CP-009 | Agro-residential lot (TCT No. NT-58931) | 171,126 | Brgy. Cadaclan, Pantabangan | P 2,650,000.00 |
| **ORIENTAL MINDORO** | | | | |
| AM-ED-095 | 2-agro-residential lots (TCT No. 122704 & 122705) | 9,563 | Sto. Niño, Puerto Galera | P 5,000,000.00 |
| **OZAMIS CITY** | | | | |
| AM-ML-097 | 5-contiguous industrial lots (TCT Nos.T-26086, T-26087, T-26088, T-26090 & T-26092) w/ bldgs. | 22,262 | National Highway, Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamis City | P 49,310,000.00 |
| AM-ML-098 | House & lot (TCT No.T-26089) | 549 | Ledesma Extension, Bo. Centro, Ozamis City | P 3,273,200.00 |
| **PAMPANGA** | | | | |
| AM-ML-148 | Agro-residential lot / TCT No. 179970-R | 1,483 | Bo San Juan, Macabebe | P 414,900.00 |
| AM-PY-269 | Residential lot / TCT No 307931-R | 888 | So. Paralaya, Rosario, Mexico | P 399,600.00 |
| AM-JA-279 | Agro-industrial lot /TCT No. T-587529-R w/bldg & imp | 21,408 | Bo. San Isidro, Minalin, Pampanga | P 13,900,000.00 |
| **PANGASINAN** | | | | |
| AM-CP-100 | 4 parcels of adjoining industrial lots/TCT Nos. 32082 to 32085 with bldg. & impvts. | 11,200 | Pagal Dist. San Carlos City | P 12,000,000.00 |
| AM-JA-127a to 127x | 7,963 sq.m. individually titled residential lots/ 81 titles (90 to 174 sq.m./title) | 7,963 | Pinewood Village, Bo. Banding, Pozorrubio | 90,000 to 230,000/lot |
| **QUEZON** | | | | |
| AM-JA-099 | House & lot (TCT No.T-25948) | 400 | Poblacion, Real | P 1,500,700.00 |
| AM-MC-100 | Vacant lot (TCT No.T-26669) | 7,715 | Purok Bougainvilla, Brgy., Capalong, Real | P 1,191,400.00 |
| AM-MC-101 | Agricultural lot (TCT No.T-367896) | 10,000 | Bo. Sampaloc, Sariaya | P 550,000.00 |
| AM-ML-249 | Fishpond lot / TCT No. T-357909 | 203,088 | Brgy Cabuguang, Tagkawayan | P 2,761,800.00 |
| AM-ML-250 | Fishpond lot / TCT No. T-367910 | 205,758 | Brgy Cabuguang, Tagkawayan | P 2,469,200.00 |
| AM-ML-129 | Interior lot / TCT T-392734 w/bldg & imp | 62,108 | Mamala, Sariaya | P 17,200,000.00 |
| **RIZAL** | | | | |
| AM-DE-102 | Industrial-residential lot (TCT No R-14327) w/ bldg. | 1,377 | C. Lawis Ext., brgy. San Luis, Antipolo City | P 5,986,000.00 |
| AM-DE-103 | Agro-residential lot (TCT No.454354) | 10,000 | San Jose, Montalban (now Rodriguez) | P 3,593,100.00 |
| AM-MR-104 | 2-adjoining agro-industrial lots (TCT No T-224628 & 224243) | 3,561 | So. Colaique, Brgy., San Roque, Antipolo City | P 1,760,500.00 |
| AM-DE-105 | House & lot (TCT No 69138) | 300 | Lot 11, Block 3, Assumption St., St. Gregory Village, Brgy. Balanti, Cainta | P 1,546,600.00 |
| AM-RP-106 | Agro-residential lot (TCT No M 96063) w/ pigery bldg. | 3,247 | Bagumbayan, Teresa | P 1,052,600.00 |
| AM-ML-107 | House and Lot (TCT No M-128469) | 36 | Lot 9, Block 20 Living Water Subd., Brgy. Quisao, Pililla | P 158,900.00 |
| AM-JA-047 | Residential lot / TCT No. 692494 with sch. Bldg. & imp. | 200 | Monzon St., Vista Verde Exec. Village Phase 9, Bo. Sto. Domingo, Cainta. | P 2,600,200.00 |
| AM-JA-085 | Residential lot / TCT No. T-655965 with 3-storey Sch. Bldg. & imp. | 200 | Monzon St., Vista Verde Exec. Village Phase 9, Bo. Sto. Domingo, Cainta | P 10,476,600.00 |
| AM-DE-128 | House & lot / TCT No. T-301965 | 300 | 31, Blk. 14, Montana Drive, Palos Verdes Garden Heights Subd., Bo. Seven Hills, Antipolo City | P 735,000.00 |
| AM-CP-303 | Four (4) contiguous parcels of land (TCT Nos. M-111034, M-111036, M-111037 & M-4200) with recreation center/cockpit arena & other improvements | 66,062 | Bo. Bulac, Teresa | P 48,845,700.00 |
| | 4-undeveloped subdivision lots: | | Bermuda Heights Subd., Bos. San Isidro and Ibayo, Antipolo City | |
| AM-PY-108a | TCT No. 403152 | 336 | Lot 1 Blk. 3 | P 322,600.00 |
| AM-PY-108b | TCT No. 403153 | 337 | Lot 5 Blk. 4 | P 323,600.00 |
| AM-PY-108c | TCT No. 403155 | 277 | Lot 2 Blk. 5 | P 266,000.00 |
| AM-PY-108d | TCT No. 403157 | 287 | Lot 1 Blk. 7 | P 275,600.00 |
| **TARLAC** | | | | |
| AM-MC-151 | 2 parcels of adjoining industrial lots / TCT Nos. 361740 & 361741 with building and imp. | 25,155 | MacArthur Highway, Bo. Estrada, Capas | P 12,840,000.00 |
| **ZAMBALES** | | | | |
| AM-RP-109 | Agro-residential lot (TCT No.T-48082) | 6,639 | Bo. Locapon, Sta. Cruz | P 1,500,000.00 |
| **ZAMBOANGA** | | | | |
| AM-RP-110 | House & lot (TCT No.T-153721) | 162 | Lot 26, Blk 14, Country Homes, Ph 3, Ayala, Zamboanga City | P 209,700.00 |
| **(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")** | | | | |
| AM-CP-114 | Various machinery & eqpt for chocolate/candy mfg. | | Serg's Compound, Ortigas Avenue, Cainta, Rizal | P 293,700.00 to P 5,220,500.00 |
| AM-DE-115 | Various chattels (1-lathe machine, 1-precission surface grinding machine, 1-vertical milling machine) | | La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | P 100,000.00 to P 168,000.00 |
| AM-JA-012 | One (1) unit CNC Turret Punch Press, "AMADA" w/ 20 kw elec. Motor & accessories | | 2337 Delaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila | P 5,250,000.00 |
| AM-ML-211b | One (1) unit Hydraulic Trough and Infeed Thread Rolling Machine, Yieh Chen, Type YC-420 | | Warehouse # 1, La Campana Compound EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | P 148,500.00 |
| AM-ML-211c | One (1) unit Thread Rolling Machine, Taiwan made Model DG-30 with standard accessories | | Warehouse # 1, La Campana Compound EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | P 99,800.00 |
| AM-JA-087 | One (1) unit Offset press machine | | La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | P 250,000.00 |
| AM-ML-56b | One (1) unit Electric Heating Upseller, TICHO, Mod. KT-VH260, 15-30 mm. round steel dia. Capacity | | DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Parañaque City | P 244,400.00 |
| AM-ML-72 | One (1) unit Pad printing machine | | DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Parañaque City | P 28,800.00 |
| AM-EL-089 | One (1) lot various machinery and equipment consisting of 2-washer/extractor, Girbau Model, 2-Tumble Dryer and Unimac | | La Campana Compound, EDSA, | P 1,050,600.00 |
| **BULACAN** | | | | |
| AM-CP-212a | One (1) complete set of Silicon Making machine | | Brgy. Santol, Balagtas | P 606,200.00 |
| AM-CP-212b | One (1) set Dryer Housing 2.35 m. x 23.3 m. x 4.3 m. | | Brgy. Santol, Balagtas | P 26,400.00 |
| **DAVAO** | | | | |
| AM-JA-256 | Complete line of machinery & equipment for coco Oil Mill Plant | | Bgy. Babac, Malalag, Davao Del Sur | P 17,148,400.00 |
| **LAGUNA** | | | | |
| AM-JA-134 | Various machinery and equipment for Mineral Water Production | | Bgy. Natividad, Pangil, Laguna | P 9,833,900.00 |
| **QUEZON** | | | | |
| AM-PY-280 | M/T "CQS ODYSSEY", an ABS-classed self-propelled coconut oil tanker, welded mild steel hull, single deck, 496.64 tons-GT, 315.36 NT, built 1998, powered by two (2) units CATERPILLAR Marine Diesel Engine with standard accessories and navigational equipments | | Dalahican Port, Lucena City | P 78,942,000.00 |
| **RIZAL** | | | | |
| AM-ML-023c | One (1) unit ACC Electric generating set | | Bo. Mamala, Sariaya | P 47,360.00 |
| AM-ML-117a | Four (4) Chocolate Conches, Richard Frisso TAG No. M-1 to M-4 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 8,708,400.00 |
| AM-ML-117b | One (1) unit Roller depositor, ERICKSON TAG NO. 49 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 4,762,800.00 |
| AM-ML-117c | One (1) set Instantblizing Plant CARLE MONTANARI ESPANOLA TAG No. 197 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 4,562,300.00 |
| AM-ML-117d | Three (3) sets Chocolate Egg & Ball depositor Assembly, TAG No. 140 to 142 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 3,563,600.00 |
| AM-ML-117e | One (1) unit Lentil RCD Coating System TAG No. 45 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 3,180,400.00 |
| AM-ML-117h | One (1) unit Ribbon Mixer Machine TAG No. M-1 to M-4 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 1,890,000.00 |
| AM-ML-117I | Two (2) units Coating Polishing Drum TAG No. 215 to 216 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 1,296,000.00 |
| AM-ML-117j | Three (3) units Carter Conches TAG No. M-5 to M-7 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 1,421,100.00 |
| AM-ML-117k | Twelve (12) units Revolving Pan TAG No. 41A-41G, 48 & 50 | | Sergs Compound, Ortigas Ave., Cainta | P 488,400.00 |

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – April 16, 2006)

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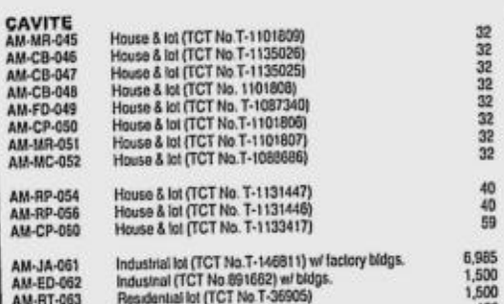


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# DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

## INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on April 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS.**

| CODE NO. | DESCRIPTION | AREA (sq.m.) | LOCATION | Minimum Bid |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REAL ESTATE** | | | | |
| **METRO MANILA** | | | | |
| CWB-34 | Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 158163) | 3,000 | Asia World City, Bo. Tambo, Paranaque City | P 85,200,000.00 |
| CWB-35 | Residential lot (TCT No.220220) w/ bldg. | 433 | No. 7895 Lawaan St San Antonio Village, Makati City | P 12,405,200.00 |
| CWB-33 | Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 434637) | 436 | Santan St., La Colina Subd., Bayanbayanan, Marikina City | P 1,177,200.00 |
| LGP-2 | Vacant residential lot (TCT No. C-346198) | 100 | No. 11, Block 3, Moonstreet , Villa Amor Dos Subdv., Zabarte, Caloocan City | P 350,000.00 |
| AM-RP-116 | Residential lot (TCT No. N-284589) w/ residential bldg. | 89 | Lot 16, Blk 23, Parkwood Hills Subd.,Brgy., Payatas, Quezon City | P 377,700.00 |
| AM-RT-117 | House & lot (TCT No. N-224211) | 60 | 9-B, Parkwood Hills Subd., Brgy., Payatas, Quezon City | P 253,600.00 |
| **BATANGAS** | | | | |
| AM-RP-118 | House & lot (TCT No. 157452) | 40 | Lot 21 Blk. 13, Transville Homes Subd., Brgy. Banay-Banay, Lipa City | P 206,700.00 |
| **BULACAN** | | | | |
| CWB-36 | 3-parcels of contiguous subdivision lots [TCT No. 409463(M),T-409464(M) T-409465(M)] w/ bldg. | 13,292 | Bo. Minuyan, Norzagaray, Bulacan | P 17,994,500.00 |
| CWB-37 | Agricultural lot [TCT-417780(M)] with bldgs. | 13,852 | Paradise Drive, San Jose Del Monte | P 7,146,800.00 |
| CWB-38 | Agro-residential lot [TCT-415955(M)] with bldgs. | 11,388 | Dulong Bayan, San Jose Del Monte | P 3,662,200.00 |
| CWB-39 | Residential/commercial lot (TCT-191823) with bldgs. & imp. | 7,361 | Bo. Sampaloc, San Rafael | P 4,490,800.00 |
| LGP-1 | 2-parcels of residential/ industrial lots (TCT No. T-118054) with bldgs. & chattels | 1,686 | Tabang, Plaridel | P 3,933,020.00 |
| AM-MR-119 | House and lot (TCT No. T-448655) (TCT No. T-118054) with bldgs. & chattels | 42 | Lot 1 Blk. 2, GrottoVille Homes, Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte | P 175,700.00 |
| **CAGAYAN VALLEY** | | | | |
| COM-34 | Residential/commercial lot (TCT T-139050) with bldgs. & chattels | 2,187 | Aparri-Tuguegarao National Road, Bagumbayan, Lallo | P 5,700,000.00 |
| **CEBU** | | | | |
| AM-DE-071 | Interior rice land (TCT T-61845) without road-right-of-way | 1,035 | Poblacion Ward I, Minglanilla | P 271,500.00 |
| **LAGUNA** | | | | |
| CWB-40 | Residential lot (TCT No.313518) | 809 | Bohol St., Southpoint Subd., Phase I, Niyugan, Cabuyao | P 3,397,800.00 |
| CWB-41 | Residential lot (TCT No.375586) | 308 | Corner Tawi Tawi & Palawan Sts., Southpoint Subd., Phase I, Malitlit, Sta. Rosa | P 1,293,600.00 |
| **RIZAL** | | | | |
| CWB-42 | 2-parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 429681 & 429680) with bldgs. | 29,318 | Patilis Road, San Mateo | P 15,268,000.00 |
| AM-ML122 | 5-parcels of industrial lots (TCT Nos. 509723 - 509727) with 23 various bldgs. | 23,874 | Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta | P 309,461,900.00 |
| **TARLAC** | | | | |
| AM-FD-123 | House & lot (TCT No. T-399344) | 40 | Lot 9 Blk. 11 Worthy St. Capitol Villas Subd., Brgy. Carangian, Tarlac City | P 358,500.00 |
| **ZAMBALES** | | | | |
| CWB-43 | 4-parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 56973 & 56974) | 456,770 | Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz | P 913,500.00 |
| **(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")** | | | | |
| AM-JA-123 | 1-unit Offset Press Machine, HAMADA, 25" x 38" printing size, with standard accessories | | La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | P 125,000.00 |
| AM-DE-124 | 3-units passenger buses, Hino Model, 67 seater, 6 wheeler; 1-unit passenger bus, 53-seater w/ Isuzu engine (all not operational) | | Gem Village, Maa, Davao City (Bus No. 5516 & 5518); Ma-a Road, Davao City across Emission Testing Center (Bus No. 5517); Km. 7, Lanang, Davao City (Bus No. 5514). | P 151,400.00 |
| AM-JA-125 | 2-units hydraulic press, 250 tons capacity, 24 in. diameter ram with accessories | | No. 6 Banner St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City | P 525,000.00 |

**BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:**

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, (052) 480-7066/480-7081 and 818-9511 loc. 1423 for LP and 920-49-09 for CWB.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

(PDI – April 16 & 17, 2006)

# LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

## *SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROJECT, PHILIPPINES (S2LDIP)*

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has applied for a loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** for the implementation of **Support for Strategic Local Development & Investment Project (S2LDIP)** which aims to finance sub-projects related to water supply and distribution, power production and distribution, solid waste management, waste water treatment, housing, roads & bridges, drainage flood control, schools, health clinics, improvement of municipal enterprise & infrastructure facilities such as public markets, slaughterhouses, bus terminals & other income generating projects of the Local Government Units.

To assist in the implementation of the program, the LBP through its **Official Development Assistance - Bids and Awards Committee (ODA-BAC)** now invites qualified and experienced consulting firms to express their interest in providing the consultancy services.

Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating (1) their qualification to perform the required services (e.g., company profile/brochures, description of similar assignments undertaken during the last years, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.); (2) the composition, expertise and experience of its staff particularly in monitoring the implementation of sub-projects being implemented by LGUs and private sector groups; and (3) the financial resources to back their operations and other valuable information.

The scope of consultancy services shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- **Project Management Monitoring** - which includes: (i) assistance to the LBP's Project Management Office (PMO) in administration, coordination, evaluation and monitoring of the Project, including preparation of progress/status reports for LBP, government oversight agencies, and World Bank; and (ii) assistance to Project Implementation Unit (PIU), (if requested by PMO).

- **Sub-project(s) Review and Evaluation** – (if needed, or, for complex sub-projects that are beyond the capacity of the PMO to review or evaluate) – which includes: (i) the review of relevant studies and/or detailed engineering designs of sub-project(s) including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) and Initial Environmental Examination (IEEs), and (ii) assessment and compliance of criteria/standards and other requirements as specified in the Operations Manual.

- **Monitoring, Advisory and Evaluation Support** – which includes assistance to the PMO in analyzing data and information provided by LGUs and suppliers/contractors; preparing reports for LBP and the World Bank, and other advisory services that may be needed during the course of the project.

The consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004.

The purpose of this invitation for expressions of interest is to come up with a short list of pre-qualified consulting firm that will still be invited to submit proposals. No award will be made as a result of this invitation.

Letters of Expressions of Interest, with accompanying company profiles and documents, must be delivered **on or before May 9, 2006, 5:00 P.M.** and addressed to:

**LBP–PMO, Support for Strategic Local Development & Investment Project**
**c/o Ms. Milette C. Cruz**
28th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
1598 M.H.del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone Numbers (632) 528-8541; (632) 405-7110; (632) 522-0000 locals 2785/ 2571
Fax Numbers: (632) 528-8541; (632) 405-7110
E-mail Address: SSLDI@mail.landbank.com

The ODA-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any pre-qualification documents, and assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify for any expense that the consultants will incur in the preparation of their pre-qualification documents.

(Sgd.) **NENITA H. VERAN**
Senior Vice President
ODA-BAC Chairperson

(PDI–April 16, 2006)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
**NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

## NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase/Lease* on an *"As is - Where is"* basis, the following properties:

| ITEM NO. | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | BASE PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|
| I. FIRST OFFERING | | | |
| LEASE | | | |
| 001 | 1,500 square meter commercial lot. With existing gasoline station. | Along East Avenue corner NIA Road, Quezon City | PhP144.44/sq.m./mo. or PhP216,667/mo. |
| SALE | | | |
| 002 | 2,000 square meter commercial lot. With title. | Phase VI-N Bagong Nayon II Antipolo City | PhP4,000/sq.m. or PhP8,000,000.00 |
| 003-007 | 5 commercial lots, 210 sq.m. each. With Titles. | Phase IV-C Bagong Nayon II | PhP4,400/sq.m. to PhP4,600/sq.m. |
| II. SECOND OFFERING | | | |
| LEASE | | | |
| 008 | 343.06 commercial lot & bldg. with a floor area of 114 sq.m. | Phase II-A Karangalan Village Project, Pasig City | PhP11,823/mo. |
| 009 | 863.57 sq.m. commercial lot | Block 140, Phase II Karangalan Village Project, Pasig City | PhP62.50/sq.m./mo. or PhP53,973.12 |
| SALE | | | |
| 010 | 541 sq.m. commercial lot with structure. With title. | Block 9, Maharlika Village Project, Taguig | PhP8,000/sq.m. (lot) PhP6,784.30 (structure) |
| 011 | 306 sq.m. commercial lot, With technical descriptions | Phase X, Pckg. 6, Block 4 Bagong Silang Resettlement, Caloocan City | PhP2,700/sq.m. |
| III. A. NEGOTIATED SALE | | | |
| 012-031 | 20 commercial lots. Lot areas ranging from 192 to 1,113 sq.m. With titles. | Phase III-E, VI-C & VI-N Bagong Nayon II, Antipolo | PhP3,500/sq.m. to PhP4,600/sq.m. |
| 032-033 | 2 commercial lots, 200 sq.m. & 248 sq.m. With titles. | Phase VI-S Bagong Nayon II, Antipolo | PhP3,500/sq.m. |
| 034 | 1,113 sq.m. commercial lot. With title. | Towerville Resettlement Project, San Jose del Monte City | PhP3,000/sq.m. or PhP3,339,000.00 |
| 035-043 | 9 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 240 to 414 sq.m. With titles. | Towerville Resettlement Project, San Jose del Monte City | PhP3,000/sq.m. PhP3,250/sq.m. |
| 044-057 | 14 commercial lots lot areas ranging from 50 to 63 sq.m. With titles. | Phase IV Towerville Resettlement Project, San Jose Del Monte City | PhP2,475/sq.m. to PhP2,500/sq.m. |
| 058-081 | 24 commercial lots. Lot areas ranging from 240 to 324 sq.m. With titles. | Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Brgy. Tuburan, Ligao, Albay | PhP1,540/sq.m. PhP1,700/sq.m. |
| 082-085 | 4 commercial lots. Lot areas ranging 74 to 295 sq.m. With technical descriptons | Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Tuburan, Ligao City, Albay | PhP1,600/sq.m. to PhP1,785/sq.m. |
| 086 | 312 sq.m. commercial lot With title. | Brgy. Bulua Cagayan de Oro City | PhP1,500/sq.m. or PhP468,000.00 |
| B. NEGOTIATED SALE OR LEASE | | | |
| 087-285 | 199 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 170 to 287 sq.m. With titles. | Pampanga Hsg. Project Pandacaqui, Telepayong Mexico, Arayat | Sale: PhP1,600/sq.m. to PhP1,800/sq.m. Lease: PhP6.67 to PhP7.50/sq.m./mo. |

**TERMS:**

For properties for lease, a minimum of two (2) months deposit and one (1) month advance shall be tendered on the date of bidding. Lease period shall be for a maximum of fifteen (15) years renewable for another five (5) years at the option of NHA. A Five Percent (5%) escalation rate shall be imposed beginning on the 2nd year of lease and every year thereafter.

For properties for sale, a minimum of Ten Percent (10%) deposit shall be tendered on the date of bidding. Options for repayment period ***are Cash, Modified Cash*** (Six (6) equal installments without interest) or ***Installment*** for a maximum period of ***Ten (10) years*** with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of **PhP200.00** from the ***Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)***, Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding Materials can also be secured from the following Project Offices:

Details on lots for negotiated sale or lease may be secured from the respective Project Offices where the properties are located or at CIED, NHA on the following working day from first publication of this Notice of Disposition.

For further inquiry, please contact *Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos/Neri A. Subido* at the following Tel. Nos. of *CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 263 & 264;*

| SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC BIDDING | EASE AVENUE KARANGALAN/ BAGONG SILANG/MAHARLIKA, TAGUIG |
|---|---|
| A. *Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements/ Evaluation/Issuance of Bidding Forms* | April 11 to 21, 2006, Office Hours, CIED, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Office Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City |
| B. *Pre-Bid Conference* | April 18, 2006, 3:00 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Office |
| C. *Submission of Sealed Bids* | April 26, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Operations Center |
| D. *Opening of Sealed Bids* | April 26, 2006, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center |

The AUTHORITY reserves the right to *reject* any or all offers or any part thereof or to *waive* any required formalities and *accept* offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **FEDERICO A. LAXA**
General Manager

(PDI - April 8 & 16, 2006)

# Republic of the Philippines
# National Economic and Development Authority
# Caraga Regional Office
Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City
Telefax No. **(085) 342-5613, (085) 341-7685**
Email add: cfsp_neda@caraga.bayandsl.ph

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The National Economic and Development Authority, Caraga Regional Office (NEDA CARAGA) through a Grant per Memorandum of Agreement with Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) for the implementation of Caraga Food Sufficiency Project, Phase II intends to apply the funds being the Approved Budget for the Contracts (ABCs) of the following contracts:

| Lot | Reference Number | Description | Approved Budget for the Contract |
|---|---|---|---|
| I | FLGC-006-001 | Rice Mill (Multi-Pass, 1.5 TPH) | Two Million Eight Hundred Sixteen Thousand Pesos Only (Php 2,816,000.00) |
| II | FLGC-006-002 | Mechanical Dryer & Accessories | One Million Three Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Pesos Only (Php 1,365,650.00) |
| III | FLGC-006-003 | Transformers and Accessories | Three Hundred Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Seven Pesos Only (390,747.00) |
| IV | FLGC-006-004 | Hauling Truck (6-Wheeler) | One Million Forty-Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php 1,045,000.00) |
| V | FLGC-006-005 | Motor Cycle | Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (Php 82,500.00) |

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NEDA CARAGA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Bunawan Farm Level Grains Center Equipment. Delivery of the GOODS is required as per Section VI Schedule of Requirements. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138)

Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at NEDA Caraga Regional Office from April 10-26, 2006.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (Php 2,500.00). The method of payment will be a commercial check payable to NEDA CARAGA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NEDA CARAGA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on April 26, 2006 10:00 AM at NEDA Caraga Regional Office.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to NEDA Caraga Regional Office on or before May 9, 2006 9:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash or cashier's check in the following amount(s):

| Lot | Reference Number | Description | Approved Budget for the Contract |
|---|---|---|---|
| I | FLGC-006-001 | Rice Mill (Multi-Pass, 1.5 TPH) | Twenty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty Pesos Only (Php 28,160.00) |
| II | FLGC-006-002 | Mechanical Dryer & Accessories | Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six Pesos & 50/100 (Php 13,656.50) |
| III | FLGC-006-003 | Transformers and Accessories | Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seven Pesos 47/100 (Php 3,907.47) |
| IV | FLGC-006-004 | Hauling Truck (6-Wheeler) | Ten Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Pesos Only (Php 10,450.00) |
| V | FLGC-006-005 | Motor Cycle | Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Pesos Only (Php 825.00) |

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on May 9, 2006 1:00 PM at NEDA Caraga Regional Office. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who may wish to attend.

The NEDA CARAGA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JOHNNY T. LIM**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – April 9 & 16, 2006)

# Ecop voices concern over runaway population

VOICING GRAVE CONcern over the rapid growth of the county's population, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) has vowed to step up initiatives on population management this year in collaboration with other sectors and various organizations, both government and non-government.

"We will link ourselves to other sectors, including labor; and various organizations, on population management and other programs that will advance the economic and social well-being of our workforce," ECOP President Rene Y. Soriano announced in a media conference.

"The unmanaged population is like a ticking bomb about to explode," Soriano pointed out, citing that today, we have 85.2 million Filipinos growing at a rate of 2.36%. In about 14 years as projected by the National Statistics Office, there will be over 100 million Filipinos, he added.

Also echoing the business sector's concern over the ballooning population, ECOP Chairman Miguel B. Varela said "as a stakeholder in population and development, the business sector recognizes the implication of a runaway population growth."

"Employers understand that we have the resources and the opportunity to create significant impact on the population problem considering that we employed 31.6 million workers as of 2005, majority of whom are in their prime reproductive ages," Varela pointed out.

The ECOP leadership noted that over the years, ECOP has been championing employers' initiatives on various programs in the workplace.

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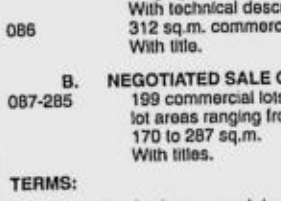

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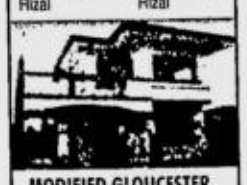

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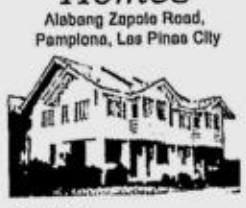

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2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

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April 18, 2:00 pm, 2F McDONALDS ANONAS cor. Aurora Blvd. Q.C. in front World Citi Med. Center
April 22, 9:00 am, 2/F CHOWKING MALOLOS BAYAN, F. Estrella St. MALOLOS CITY, BULACAN
April 20, 2:00 pm, 2/F McDONALDS ALIMALL, Araneta Center, Cubao, Q.C.
April 22, 1:30 pm, 2/F CHOWKING Gil Carlos St., Poblacion BALIUAG, BULACAN

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE DEED OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH DONATION INTER VIVOS OF ESTATE WAS SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS OF THE LATE ANTONIO M. CASTILLO AUTHENTICATED PER DOC. NO. 02160 SERVICE NO. 05911 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE GINES RICARDO GALLAGA VICE CONSUL L.A. C.A. AND AUTHENTICATED PER DOC. NO. 0154 PAGE NO. 88 BOOK NO. 09 SERVICE NO. 438 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE RAUL S. HERNANDEZ CONSUL VANCOUVER BC CANADA. (PDI-APR. 2,9 & 1 6 . 2 0 0 6 )

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is herby given that the Estate of the late Spouses Nicodemus and Amanda Domingo was extrajudicially settled between their heirs as per Doc No 242,
Page No 49,Book No LXXIII Series of 2006 as per Notary Public Atty. Solronio C. Untalan Jr.
(PDI -Apr. 9,16 & 23,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses CARLOS M. de GUZMAN and CONSTANCIA ABEBUAG-de GUZMAN have been adjudicated by the heirs per Doc#24, Page#8, Book#43 Series of 2005 before Notary Public Jesus B. Bongon of Pasay City.
(PDI-Apr. 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSEFINA V. JAVIER was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 402, Page No. 82, Book No. 42, Series of 2006 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Cesar Ching of Marikina City (PDI-April 2, 9 &16, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver notarized as Doc. No. 459, Page No. 93, Book No. IX, Series of 2006 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Rufino Opulencia is executed by the sole descendant legal heirs of DOROTEA MANALO, absolute owner of the land described in Tax Dec. No. 02106, Prop. Index No. EI-044 of the City of Calamba.
(PDI-April 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Horacio C. Jimenez was extra-judicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. # 241, Page # 49, Book # 17, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Arlene J. Carbon of Taytay, Rizal (PDI-April 9, 16, 23, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses JUAN E. DOCTO & MENA TANADA-DOCTO have been adjudicated by the heirs per DOC#126, Page#27, Book I, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Agueda L. Gepte , City of Manila.
(PDI- Apr. 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SALVADOR Z. BERNAL who died on March 5, 2005 was extrajudicially settled in accordance with the extrajudicial settlement and partition duly executed by the heirs before Consul Enrico T. Fos, of Virginia, USA per Doc No. AC - 05 - 5830, Series of 2005, Service No. 6471, OR No. 006; Notary Public Asma Iqbal, Commonwealth of Virginia dated August 22, 2005.
(PDI - April 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

Notice the Estate of Antonio Arandia who died on Mar. 11,'06 was adjudicated by his only surving child & sole heir Irene C. Arandia before Notary Public Atty. C. Bayon Eta Jr. Under Doc No.42; Page No. 10;Book No. IV;Series '06
(PDI- Apr. 9,16,23'06)

### NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is herby given that CMP Stock Cert#307 under Roberto Arandela for 3000 shs. has been declared lost.If no contest received,new stock cert. will be issued.
(PDI- Apr. 9,16,23'06)

Notice is hereby given that Certificate No. 1742 for one (1) properietary share of the VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. issued to AMANDO D. DUMLAO, JR. was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI - April 16, 23 & 30, 2006

Notice is hereby given that Pilipino Telephone Corp. Cert. No. 134881 - 500,000 shares under SELENA SY YAO was declared lost. If no contest received in one year, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-April 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

Notice is hereby given to the public that Mr. SEUNG HO CHUNG residing at No. 1 Villa Consolacion Woodsgate Camp 7, Baguio City had lost his Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) with No.E289753
(PDI-April 9 & 16, 2006)

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW summer wear Inventory sale consign 09178830002

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACCOUNTING CLERK AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK W/2YRS EXPERIENCE NOT MORE THAN 30 YRS OLD CALL LETLET@8792030

Dep Ed Makati District VI 1 Vacant Position Teacher III Item#OSEC-DECSB 35065

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OPTOMETRISTS 3033915Pasay

WANTED: Young Lawyer •Please Call Mr.Arnel Chavez or apply in person at VAACI 3771 Mascardo cor Zapote Sts., MKT City Tel# 8 9 6 - 7 4 0 6

Cook 8, Yaya 4, H'giri 3, Boy Laba Foreign 8510250

• ARCHITECTS •
• ENGINEERS •
10F VALERO TOWER, VALERO ST, MIDEAST MAKATI

**RESIDENT MANAGER**
Kenny & D Jazzbar Co.
Call Ana 9611829 (9AM - 3PM)
Ophel 9142910 (5PM)
Submit Resumé at
Unit 115 Ortigas Bazaar, Juka Vargas St., Ugong, Pasig

Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
Environmental Management Bureau
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 925-4793 to 97
Email: emb@cmb.gov.ph
Visit us at http://www.cmb.gov.ph

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)
### PHILIPPINES: ODS PHASE-OUT PROJECT/TF 21931 PH

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Philippine Ozone Desk has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National CFC Phase-out Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services includes the hiring of:

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT/VERIFICATION TEAM:**

Main Tasks shall include:

a) Total Verification of CFC Importation for CY 2005 in relation to quotas issued to registered importers;
b) Total Verification of CY 2005 custom's records on CFC importation including declaration forms from importers for validation of customs codes versus import licenses and importers information;
c) Total Verification of CY 2005 documentation from importers - bill of lading, invoices, declaration forms;
d) Verification and review of process for issuing of import quota, and summarize the methodology used by the government for data collection;
e) Verification and validate non-consumption of CFC 11 in the foam manufacturing sector;
f) Verification of the volume of CFC 12 consumption in the MAC/RAC servicing sector;
g) Recommendations on the improvement in forms and procedures to monitor market flow of CFC's.

*The audit team should have at least three (3) years extensive audit experience in conducting management audit coupled with good understanding of classification of chemicals, ODS trade and government policies on ODS. Capability in coordination specifically with Bureau of Customs and Philippine Association of Refrigerant Importers Incorporated (PARII) and other concerned government and private agencies. The Team Leader should have at least three (3) years extensive experience in conducting management audit using an internationally accepted auditing protocol. There should be at least two (2) professional members of the audit team with good understanding of classification of chemicals, ODS trade and government policies on ODS.*

The Audit Team shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Borrowers Guidelines for the Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours. (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.).

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below on or before *28 April 2006*.

**PHILIPPINE OZONE DESK**
**Dir. DONNA MAYOR-GORDOVE**
**Program Manager, POD**
**2nd Floor, HRDS Bldg., DENR Compound**
**Tel. No. 925-2344/928-1244 (Telefax)**
**Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**
**Email address: ozonewatch@vasia.com**

(PDI - April 16, 2006)

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416-8144/416-8145/373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220

Metro Iloilo Water District
Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3272 / 337-3246
Fax No. (033) 336-6538

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee 1 (BAC-1), invites qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contracts:

| Item No. | Qty. | Name of Contracts | Approved Budget for the Contract | Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable) | Delivery Period/ Contract Duration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Various Fittings | P 3,442,500.00 | P 1,500.00 | 30 cds |
| 2 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Water Meters ½" | P 2,000,000.00 | P 1,000.00 | 30 cds |
| 3 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Various Sizes of P.E. Tubing | P 1,148,750.00 | P 1,000.00 | 30 cds |
| 4 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Sewage Pump | P 900,000.00 | P 750.00 | 100 cds |
| 5 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Various Sizes of Saddle Clamps | P 823,700.00 | P 750.00 | 30 cds |
| 6 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Plastic Male Adapter (Compression Type Fittings) | P 185,000.00 | P 250.00 | 30 cds |

Prospective bidders should have the experience in undertaking a similar contract within the last two years with an amount of 50% of the proposed contract for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted accordingly.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

Bid Documents and additional information may be obtained at the BAC-1 Secretariat, Ground Floor of the MIWD Building, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City.

The schedule of procurement activities is as follows:

| BAC ACTIVITIES | SCHEDULE |
|---|---|
| 1. Advertisement | April 7-20, 2006 |
| 2. Issuance of Bid Documents | April 17-25, 2006 |
| 3. Pre-bid Conference | April 26, 2006 2:00 p.m |
| 4. Deadline of Submission of Bids | May 9, 2006 10:00 a.m. |
| 5. Opening of Bids | May 9, 2006 10:30 a.m. |

The MIWD BAC-1 reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received declare a failure of bidding for any justified and reasonable ground, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC-1, is most advantageous to the District.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ERNESTO J. CABEROY
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee 1

(PDI--April 7 & 16, 2006)

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# CELSO GARGANERA HOFILEÑA

*peacefully joined his LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST on the 13th of April, 2006, at the age of 76.*

He is survived by his loving wife **Maggie Acelar Hofileña**; his children **Celso Jr.**, **Benjamin III**, **Maggie Rose** and **Eduardo**; daughters-in-law **Maridee** and **Mimi**; grandchildren **Abby** and **Mark**; and sisters **Elsa** and **Ninfa**.

His remains will be brought to Iloilo City on April 18, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. and will lie in state at their residence at 31 Arguelles St., Jaro, Iloilo City.

A homecoming service will be held at the Immanuel Christian Fellowship on Saturday, April 22, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at the Phil-American Cemetery.

# JOSEFINA ADRIANO DEL ROSARIO

*of Malabon and Irving, Texas who died on April 7, 2006 at the age of 69.*

She is survived by her loving children **TESSA** and **MARK**, **DINO** and **GIGI**, **CORINE** and **PEPE**, **NINI**, **PIA** and **MICHAEL**; grandchildren **GINO**, **RYAN**, **JACOB**, **RACHEL**, **DEVYN**, **VICTOR**, **ALEX** and **ZOE**; brother and sisters; aunts; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; and relatives.

Burial took place in Calvary Hill, Dallas, TX on April 12, 2006. A rosary was held at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home in Irving, TX. Mass and funeral service was held in her parish, Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Irving, TX.

There will also be a Memorial Mass at the Del Rosario residence in Pulilan, Bulacan today, April 16, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

*In Loving Memory*
**First Death Anniversary of**

# FELICULA C. GATMAITAN

*Who died in the Grace of our Lord on April 16, 2005 at the age of 96.*

Her children **Natividad** and **Deogracias**, **Clemente, Jr.** and **Concepcion**, **Escolastico** and **Erna**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sister and other relatives request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

**Holy Masses will be offered today, April 16, 2006 at:**

6:00 A.M., St. Paul de Apostle Church, Mother Ignacia St., Q.C.
7:00 A.M., Sacred Heart Parish Church, Scout Ybardolaza, Kamuning, Q.C.
10:30 A.M., Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City

# B/GEN. ALEJO G. CABEL

**Ret. 0-4889 of San Nicolas Ilocos Norte & 104 Marang St., Proj. 2, Quezon City**

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 11, 2006 at the age of 68.*

His bereaved wife **THELMA (Fernando)**; children **Alexis** and wife **Gina**, **Alma Liza** & **Anthony** & **Tess**; grand daughter **Ashely** & **Maan**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

# FRANCISCO CORTEZ UY

*died in the grace of our Lord April 13, 2006 at the age of 46.*

His bereaved mother, **Emilia**; stepfather **Nazario**; sisters, **Marilyn**, **Rosalinda**, **Ma. Theresa**, **Ma. Lourdes**, **Rosanna Emilia**; brothers-in-law **Norberto**, **Rogelio**, **Raul**, **Warren**; and brother, **Pablo, Jr.** and wife **Evelyn**; nieces and nephews; and grandchildren, request relatives, friends and readers to join in prayer for his soul's eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City. Holy Mass will be offered today, April 16, 2006 at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm.

He will be laid to rest at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite on April 18, 2006 after the 7:30 am Mass.

**I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**
**John 14:6**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

SBMA Bldg. 709, Cor. Burgos & Quezon Sts., Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Phils. 2222
Telephone (6347) 252-4613/4219/4474 Fax: (6347) 252-4339

### INVITATION TO BID

**FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS/ UNSERVICEABLE AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"**

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION/LOCATION | SCHEDULE OF BIDDING TIME |
|---|---|---|
| Lot 01 | POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ACCESSORIES LOCATED AT B-8090, CUBI POWER PLANT, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE | MAY 10, 2006 - 2:00 P.M. PPMD CONFERENCE ROOM B-255, BARRYMAN ST. SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE |

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Property Mgt. Division, Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Bldg. 709, Burgos St., SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

SEC Registration (Partnership/Corporation); DTI Certificate of Registration (if not corporation); Valid Mayor's Permit; Latest Income Tax Return (ITR, 2005); Certification of Cash Deposit of a reputable bank

II. Deadline of submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on APRIL 28, 2006. No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference & Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on MAY 2, 2006.

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by group on the following schedules:

| LOT | DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | MAY 2, 2006 | 9:00 A.M. |

VI. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4613/4219.

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 11 day of APRIL 2006.

(Sgd.) **RANI C. CRUZ**
Manager, PPMD
Member, Disposal Committee

(PDI - April 16 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
**Division of Apayao**
Luna, Apayao

16 April 2006

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division Office of Apayao, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Contract | : Completion of DepEd Division Office Building |
| Location | : Capagaypayan, Luna, Apayao |
| Brief Description | : Completion of DepEd Division Office Building |
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | : Php. 7,150,321.26 |
| Contract Duration | : 90 Calendar Days |

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms | 17–23 April 2006 |
| 2. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | 24–30 April 2006 |
| 3. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check | 02 May 2006 |
| 4. Issuance of Bid Documents | 03–10 May 2006 |
| 5. Pre-bid Conference | 11 May 2006 |
| 6. Receipt and Opening of Bids | 22 May 2006 |

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Division Office of Apayao upon their submission of a letter of intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the Division BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php. 2,500.00 to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Division Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **MARIE CAROLYN V. VERANO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – APRIL 16, 2006)

# EFREN HENRY SACRO FERAREN

*died in the grace of our Lord April 13, 2006 at the age of 51.*

His bereaved brothers, **Rodolfo**, **Francis**, **Mario**, **Danilo**; sisters, **Purita**, **Zenaida**, **Norma**, **Eleonor**, sisters-in-law **Violeta**, **Suzie**, **Linda**, **Melvin**; brothers-in-law, **Vicente**, **Gerry**, **Reynaldo**, **Danilo**; nieces and nephews; and grandchildren, request relatives, friends and readers to join in prayer for his soul's eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City. Holy Mass will be offered today, April 16, 2006 at 9:30 am. and 6:30 pm.

He will be laid to rest at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite on April 18, 2006 after the 7:30 am Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

## PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5295

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

**PURCHASE OF CAPILLARY TUBING UNDER GQ-516719**
**APPROVED BUDGET PHP 3,000,000.00**

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Alejandro V. Andres** starting **April 03, 2006**, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **April 12, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property, and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time) of *April 27, 2006***. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

**Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II**

(PDI – April 5 & 16, 2006)

## ST. MICHAEL MEDICAL CENTER

220 Molino II, Bacoor, Cavite, Philippines

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**TO ALL OUR CLIENTS, SUPPLIERS, CREDITORS & PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS**

ST. MICHAEL HOSPITAL AND/OR ST. MICHAEL DIAGNOSTIC AND SKIN CARE LABORATORY SERVICES IS A DULY REGISTERED SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP, OWNED AND MANAGED BY DRA. YOLANDA R. CRUZ-RODIL. UPON COMPLETION OF THE ADJACENT NEW BUILDING THAT SHALL PROVIDE THE MOST MODERN & COMPREHENSIVE LINE OF FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT IN PATIENT CARE, ST. MICHAEL MEDICAL CENTER, AS A DULY REGISTERED CORPORATION WILL BE IN FULL SWING OPERATION.

OUR VERY LOYAL PATRONS NEED NOT WORRY SINCE THE MAJORITY AND CONTROLLING SHARES OF STOCKS REMAIN TO BE WITH THE SPOUSES VIRGILIO & YOLANDA CRUZ-RODIL. ALSO, OUR TRADEMARK PERSONALIZED CARE & ATTENTION WILL BE MAINTAINED.

HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC IS STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO FALL PREY TO THE UNSCRUPULOUS PEOPLE MISREPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS THE NEW OWNERS-MANAGERS OF THE ABOVE-NAMED ESTABLISHMENTS. THEIR MODUS OPERANDI CONSIST OF SOLICITING INVESTMENTS, SELLING RIGHTS TO PRACTICE, OBTAINING LOANS, CREDITS, ACCOMMODATIONS & EVEN CHECK REDISCOUNTING, ALLEGEDLY FOR AND IN BEHALF OF THE ABOVE NAMED ESTABLISHMENTS.

DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION WE CAN USE FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE APPREHENSION, PLS. FEEL FREE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SPOUSES VIRGIL & YOLANDA CRUZ - RODIL OR THE HOSPITALS' CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL AT THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS: (02-5298872), (02-5298946), (046-4771707), (046-4771757), OR (8425761) – MENDOZA LAW OFFICE).

**(SGD.) ATTY. DON JAMES C. MENDOZA**
Chief Legal Counsel

(PDI – April 16, 2006)

## Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

### BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | Supply of Services thru outsourcing of Ten (10) General Clerks and Eleven (11) Data Encoders |
| Approved Budget for the Contract | P10,000/month or P1,640,000.00 |
| Contract Duration | Per BSP Terms of Reference |

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | 10 April – 20 April 2006 (up to 2:00PM only) |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | 21 April 2006, 4:00PM |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 09 May 2006, 2:00PM |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | ) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods |
| 5. Post-qualification | ) allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A |
| 6. Notice of Award | ) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003 |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to P790.00

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI – APRIL 16, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**PROCUREMENT SERVICE**

Room 507-508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph; e-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph
Direct Line: 636-65-43 / Telefax: 636-65-42, 633-93-43 Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2005/2115

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Printing and Delivery of the following:

| Packages | Item No. | Items Quantity in Copies | Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | Pre-Bid Conference | Bid Submission deadline / Opening of Bids | Venue | End user |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 1 | Individual Health Cards (Elementary) 3,000,000 copies | Php 2,250,000.00 | April 21, 2006 11:00 a.m. | May 04, 2006 11:00 a.m. | Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City | Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) |
| B | 1 | Individual Health Cards (Secondary) | Php 1,400,000.00 | | | | |
| | 2 | Health Examination Cards (Form 86) 50,000 copies | Php 133,500.00 | | | | |
| | 3 | Teacher's Oral Health Cards 50,000 copies | Php 75,000.00 | | | | |
| | | TOTAL | Php 3,858,500.00 | | | | |

Bids received that exceed the ABC per item shall be rejected

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on **April 10, 2006** upon payment of the non-refundable fee of **PhP 2,000.00** in cash to the DepED Cashier.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **Atty. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA**
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – April 9 & 16, 2006)

JOB Market

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2006
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For jobseekers, log on to:
www.jobmarketonline.com

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This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
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Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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**INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES**
**(Commonwealth, Makati, Ortigas, or Alabang)**
**Give answers, close sales, and provide solutions to customers of top companies in telecommunications, finance, and entertainment.**

**OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES**
**(Commonwealth, Makati, Ortigas, or Alabang)**
**Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.**

**TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES**
**(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)**
**Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier Internet service providers get back online.**

**INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES - HEALTH CARE**
**(Makati)**
**Receive inbound calls to investigate caller inquiry through client systems, utilizing health care knowledge in responding to hospitals, physicians, and other medical providers. Candidates must have medical background.**

**Technical Customer Care Representatives may call 6318230 or email their resumes to hro@teledevelopment.com**

**Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm as a walk-in applicant and experience faster processing.**

**For Makati applicants, we accept walk-ins on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm.**

**Email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com**

**Join our walk-in activity at our Commonwealth Site from April 17-19, 2006 and experience ONE DAY PROCESSING.**
**FREE SNACKS will be served for all applicants.**

**Commonwealth Office**
Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
(02)756-7088

**Makati Office**
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

**Ortigas Office**
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

**Alabang Office**
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

**U-Belt Office**
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

**We offer an attractive compensation and benefits packages. Additional rewards and incentives are given to top performing agents. Applicants with resume, NBI Clearance, TIN and SSS number will be prioritized.**

**For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.**

CONVERGYS
Outthinking Outdoing

## Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

**Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme is offering an employment opportunity for**

# Education Officer/Team Leader

**Based in Cotabato City**

Have you always wanted a challenge, a defining career move and an exciting opportunity to enrich your experience with an international organization? Then, it is time to chase your dreams and join our dynamic team. If you are a self-motivated and dedicated individual, who shares our values and wants to be part of making a difference in people's lives in the Central Mindanao Region, then go ahead and apply for this role.

**The Post**

Oxfam's programme in Central Mindanao has a community-based approach. The aim of this post is to supervise and manage the Education Team to ensure maximum community consultation and participation in all elements of the programme, with specific reference to community participatory assessment and planning and school improvement activities. This post will be responsible for working with local partner organizations and government line agencies to draw on their skills, develop their capacity, and particularly for government agencies, strengthen their links/services to communities.

The post holder will also work in close coordination with the other team leaders, especially, and team members (i.e Public Health, Food security, Free and Informed Decisions) to ensure programme integration and harmonized strategies. The Oxfam team has a wide range of skills and experience and the post holder will ensure that these skills are maximized and the team is given the opportunity to participate in all aspects or programme development. The post holder reports to the Mindanao Rights and Governance Programme Coordinator.

**The Key Responsibilities:**

- Plan, implement and manage the work of the Education Team to meet the targets of the programme. This includes leading the operational planning of the education component of the Mindanao programme, developing and managing partnerships with local government units, particularly the Department of Education Division, District and School-level offices as well as the local education committees.
- Lead the Education Team in assessing the needs of the returnees in their place of origin or resettlement areas, as well as in the evacuation centers, ensuring that participatory approaches are employed in data collection and data analysis with the communities and team members.
- On the basis of the needs assessments, support the Programme Manager in designing and initiating community based approaches to improve children's access to quality education and/or access to adult literacy classes/non-formal classes of poor adults. This includes contingency planning with local partners and communities for emergency situations. This may also involve assessing education situation, indicators and trends.
- Lead in the development of community and parent education materials for training community education volunteers and teachers. Main areas of training will be on facilitating and/or promoting interest on education, surfacing community views and issues around access to and quality of education service, possible sources of support for community education needs and how to access such.
- Provide technical support to partners on programme planning, implementation, monitoring and impact assessment/review and capacity building. The post holder will directly communicate with the partner in education issues and will be responsible to keep close coordination with the Public Health, Food Security and Free and Informed Decision teams to ensure an integrated approach in programme sites and to promote learning of staff members.
- Ensure all work is carried out in a way that is sensitive to community needs and gender issues. In particular, to promote full and equal participation of women in all aspects of work and to ensure that Oxfam's programme is an opportunity for peacemaking, rather than community division.
- Act as a member of the management committee and provide support to the Security Officer in analyzing the day-to-day security situation. The post holder will be responsible to keep the confidentiality of all sensitive security issues until discussed with the Programme Manager.

**Core Competencies:**

- Good understanding of development work in Mindanao
- Initiative and drive to achieve results
- Ability to work effectively with others

**The Person**

The ideal candidate must have:

- A suitable qualification in any related discipline e.g. education, community works, with 2 years practical experience in community managed programmes. Practical experience of participatory needs assessment and planning is essential.
- The post holder should have a good understanding of the education needs of poor rural and urban communities and of appropriate ways of tackling them. The post holder must be aware of and sensitive to the particular needs of girls and women in this context.
- Management experience in complex conflict situations
- Financial management and budgeting skills
- Experience in developing appropriate training materials and strong training skills
- Knowledge and goods understanding of the Central Mindanao context
- Strong representational and diplomacy skills and an ability to relate to people from all backgrounds
- Excellent time management skills and the ability to work on his/her own initiative to build on and develop the programme and post
- Strong team building and leadership skills
- Understanding of gender issues in development and demonstrable commitment to promoting gender equality
- Fluency in written and spoken English, Tagalog and Maguindanaon
- Knowledge of any other Central Mindanao language is a plus
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Computer literacy in Word and Excel
- Willingness to travel, sometimes in remote areas for extended periods, to visit projects and partners.

This is a fixed assignment for twelve (12) months. Interested applicants should submit application letter and CV to:

**The Human Resources and Administrative Officer**
**OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN**
**95-A Malumanay Street**
**Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101**
**FAX: 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk**

**Deadline of application : 23 April 2006**
**Interview date : 28 April 2006**

**ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW**

## Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

**Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme is offering an employment opportunity for**

# Community Organizer-Education

**Based in Cotabato City**

Have you always wanted a challenge, a defining career move and an exciting opportunity to enrich your experience with an international organization? Then, it is time to chase your dreams and join our dynamic team. If you are a self-motivated and dedicated individual, who shares our values and wants to be part of making a difference in people's lives in the Central Mindanao Region, then go ahead and apply for this role.

**The Role**

The Education Community Organizer reports to the Education Officer and the job purpose is to assist in the implementation of the education projects in the Central Mindanao Region.

**The Key Responsibilities:**

- Carry out general (including technical and situational) assessments in evacuation centers, resettlements and home areas.
- Commence and facilitate community consultation process in selected home areas, ensuring equal participation of women and men. This includes feedback of assessment results, project planning and beneficiary selection.
- Link with the Department of Education and Department of Social Welfare and Development, to inform them of Oxfam education interventions, and mobilize resource persons from these departments for the community trainings to support IDPs.
- Link with and assist technical resource persons in the conduct of training activities for school personnel and parent representatives.
- Work in close collaboration with other team members; i.e. with the public health, food security and protection and conflict reduction counterparts to ensure an integrated approach to the rehabilitation needs of the population.
- Monitor program indicators regularly, including assessing the project's impact on women and to ensure that data gathered is disaggregated by gender.
- Facilitate community processes i.e. community problem identification, needs assessment and planning on education concerns as well as community-based training activities.
- Facilitate distribution of material inputs and rehabilitation of education facilities where required and within project design, ensuring that beneficiaries participate in the process.
- Liaise with grassroots institutions/organizations to get relevant information (i.e. government programs and services on education) and also share relevant approved external reports from Oxfam with them.
- Ensure adherence and consistency of the programme to gender and other standards in humanitarian response and development work.
- Ensure that all work is carried out in a way that is sensitive to community needs, cultural perceptions, gender and disability issues.
- Produce regular monthly reports for the Education Officer in a timely manner.

**Core Competencies:**

- Good understanding of development work in Mindanao
- Initiative and drive to achieve results
- Ability to work effectively with others

**The Person**

The ideal candidate must have:

- A post secondary school qualification in any field is required, where this is not available, a minimum of one year experience with a community based NGO may be accepted
- Experience in community work (at least 6 months)
- Ability to facilitate discussions, community decision making, community organizing etc.
- Ability to learn about the community and on education issues
- Fluency in Tagalog, English and Maguindanaon
- Knowledge of other Central Mindanao language is a plus
- Computer literacy in word and excel
- Willingness to travel, sometimes in remote areas for extended periods, to carry our assessments, trainings and monitor projects
- Understanding of gender issues in development and demonstrable commitment to promoting gender equality
- Flexibility; ability to work under pressure and in response to changing needs
- Ability to work in a team
- Diplomacy, tact, negotiation and communication skills

This is a fixed assignment for twelve (12) months. Interested applicants should submit application letter and CV to:

**The Human Resources and Administrative Officer**
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المملكة العربية السعودية
وزارة التعليم العالي
جامعة الملك سعود
كلية طب الأسنان

الرقم:
التاريخ: / / ١٤٢٧هـ
المرفقات:

الموضوع

## NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!!!

- **DENTAL TECHNICIAN (ASSISTANTS)**
  Must have Bachelor's Degree in radiology from Allied Medical School
  Must have three (3) years minimum experience
  Must be knowledgeable in handling procedures for Peripheral arterial disease
  Must be able to handle Duplex Scan and Doppler study for arteries and vein.
- **BIO-MEDICAL ENGINEERS**
  Must have at least five (5) years of experience and expertise in maintaining research laboratory machines. Preferably, the applicant has completed a degree in Electrical Engineering. Monthly salary will commensurate based on the qualification of the applicant. Initial offer is SR2,250.00/mo.
- **INSTRUCTORS**
  **FOR DENTAL LAB TECH. PROGRAM**
  Must have at least ten (10) years of experience and a licensed Doctor of Dental Medicine. Initial monthly salary is SR2,250.00/mo.
- **STERILIZATION TECHNICIAN**
  Must have at least five (5) years of experience and had completed no less than a second year level education. Initial monthly salary is SR1,650/mo.
- **INSTRUCTORS**
  **FOR DENTAL ASSISTING DIPLOMA PROGRAM**
  Must have at least ten (10) years of experience and a licensed Doctor of Dental Medicine. Applicant who has completed post graduate education or had teaching experience will be given priority. Monthly salary will commensurate based on the qualification of the applicant.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. (1) pc. (2x2) picture
2. Photocopy of College Diploma and Employment Certificates
3. Photocopy of Board License / Certificate and PRC ID (if any)
4. No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi)

**QUALIFIED APPLICANTS** should personally submit a detailed resumé with job description, with the above requirements at the Manpower Registry Division, Window K, Ground Floor, Blas F. Ople Bldg., Ortigas Ave., cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

*PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION*
*MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, WINDOW K*
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

**"Mag-ingat sa mga Illegal Recruiters"**

***Our Company is one of the recognized leading brands in the fashion leather business in the Philippines with more than 30 years of experience and success. As the company expands, it continues to employ competent workforce that delivers high quality products and services to its clients.***

**HR MANAGER**

- Female, preferably single 25-38 years old.
- Candidate must possess a degree in Human Resource Management, I/O Psychology or its equivalent. Post Graduate Diploma or Master's Degree in Human Resource Management is preferred but not required.
- With 3 to 5 years of managerial working experience in Human Resources.
- Well verse in the different facets of HR (Recruitment, Training, OD, Labor Laws, Compensation & Benefits, Employee Relations, and Corporate Communications).
- Strong leadership, organizational, strategic thinking, highly analytical, and decision making skills.
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills.
- With excellent interpersonal skills.
- Must be detail-oriented and patient.
- Computer literate.

**HEAD ACCOUNTANT**

- Female, preferably single 25-38 years old.
- Candidate must possess a degree in BSC major in accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant.
- With 3 to 5 years of managerial working experience in Accounting.
- Computer literate.
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills.
- Must be highly organized, detail-oriented and high analytical skills.

**PROGRAMMER/ WEB DEVELOPER**

- Male, preferably single 20-30 years old
- Candidate must be degree holder in BS-Computer Science or Computer Engineer.
- With 6 months to 2 years work experience under the same capacity.
- Computer literate and is competent on the following: VB.Net for windows application, VB script for web application, ASP.Net, ASP; both on a client server architecture.
- Must have strong analytical skills, flexible, dedicated, committed to long-term professional relationship, a team player, well versed in proper development life cycles.

**PRODUCT HEAD**

- Female, preferably single 23-30 years old.
- Candidate must be degree holder in Business Administration, Marketing or Management.
- Computer literate and is knowledgeable in product development and in retail business.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- With 1 to 2 years experience in the field of Marketing and / or Merchandising.
- Must be organized, detail-oriented and patient.

**GRAPHICS DESIGNER**

- Male, preferably single 21-30 years old.
- Candidate must possess degree in fine arts or graphics design.
- Competencies in photography, visual merchandising, product packaging, and visual communication and design are required.
- With 1 year experience under the same capacity.
- Computer literate and is competent on the following applications: MS Office, Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw, Illustrator, and other graphics application program.

**Send your comprehensive resumé to:**
HR / Admin
# 47 3rd St., New Manila, Quezon City
E-mail to: jobzseekers@yahoo.com

*We need dynamic and responsible individuals for the following positions:*

**PURCHASING MANAGER**

- College grad.; female; excellent team leader
- W/ at least 2 yrs exp as Purchasing Mgr.; comp. proficient

**SALES SECRETARY**

- College grad.; female; single w/ pleasing personality
- Exc. communication skills & phone etiquette; comp. literate

**SALES ENGINEERS**

- BS G.E. grad or undegrad.; w/ or w/o sales exp.
- Computer literate; good communication skills
- Willing to travel; w/ valid Driver's License

**HRD OFFICER**

- BS Psychology grad. w/ at least 2 yrs. exp.; female; single

**MARKETING ASSISTANT**

- BS Marketing major w/or w/o exp.
- Pref. single, not more than 30 yrs. old
- Comp.prof.; exc. communication & organizational skills

**ACCOUNTING MANAGER**

- BS Acctg. grad.; female; pref. single; excellent team leader
- 2 yrs.work exp.; detail-oriented; highly organized
- Excellent analytical skills; reliable; goal-oriented

**ACCOUNTING CLERKS**

- Female; college grad. with at least 12 Accounting units

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

- College grad.; female; single; comp. proficient
- Detail-oriented; organized; flexible; resourceful

Please submit your comprehensive resumé with latest photo to:

**Admin. Department Head**
**1800 A. Mendoza St., Sampaloc Manila 1008**
**or email us at vic_smi@philonline.com.ph**

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Field Office IV-A (CALABARZON)
Tulong! Sulong!

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES

The DSWD Region IV-A (CALABARZON) announces the following vacant positions under KALAHI-CIDSS Program

**DEPUTY AREA COORDINATORS (DACs)**

- Licensed Civil Engineer
- Three (3) years relevant experience in infrastructure project
- Computer literate
- Assignment- Municipalities of Quezon
- Monthly Salary – Php 17,119.00

**COMMUNITY FACILITATORS (CFs)**

- Graduate of Social Work, Community Development or Social Services
- Two (2) years strong field experience in Community Organizing
- Computer Literate
- Assignment- Municipalities of Quezon
- Monthly Salary – Php 14,240.00

**MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER (M&E O)**

- Bachelor's Degree- AB/Social Science Course
- Three (3) years strong experience in Monitoring & Evaluation Project Management
- Computer Literate
- Assignment- Regional Office based but need to travel in far municipalities of Quezon
- Monthly Salary – Php 14,240.00

**MUNICIPAL ROVING BOOKKEEPER (MRB)**

- Graduate of Accountancy
- One (1) year work experience in Accounting and bookkeeping work
- Computer Literate
- Assignment- Municipalities of Quezon
- Monthly Salary – Php 11,511.00

Submit resumé & school credentials personally on or before April 30, 2006 for initial interview at DSWD Region IV-A, Alabang Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Contact Persons:
1. Floreceli G. Gunio - Acting Division Chief
2. Alicia G. Corpuz - Administrative Officer V
Tel no. 807-4142 / 807-71-02

(Sgd.) **WILMA D. NAVIAMOS**
KALAHI-CIDSS Project Manager

**IMMEDIATE HIRING**

**LICENSED**

- *5 Civil Engineers*
- *1 Electrical Engineer*
- *1 Mechanical Engineer*

Minimum five (5) years proven track record in Vertical and/or Horizontal Projects.

Apply immediately in person with your comprehensive resumé at:

RCD Builders Corporation
1640 National Highway
Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa City
(049) 534-4518 (02) 699-5003

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!**

**2 - Project Engineers**

QUALIFICATIONS:
Must be a BSCE graduate, (preferably licensed but not required) • Male preferably single • Must be willing to work under pressure and extra long hours • Can relate to any level of management • Good oral and written communication skills • Not more than 30 years old • Applicants must be residing within Pasig, Marikina, Cainta and Cogeo Area.

**1 - CAD Operator**

• BSCE Graduate • Male / Female (single) • Knows how to operate Autocad 2000 to 2005

All qualified applicants may submit personally their resumé and other related documents to:

LOIDA B. ACUÑA
Orchids St., Newton Greenheights
Mayamot, Antipolo City 1870
Telephone No. 646-4921

**SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY**

JOB Market

*Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com*

Looking for your next job in technology? Then check out Accenture Technology Solutions. We build, deploy and maintain robust technology solutions for Accenture clients to help them become high-performance businesses. As part of our global team, you'll be working with the latest software and leading-edge development tools—giving you the opportunity to build specialist skills and expertise on the job. We need people who thrive on technology challenges. People who can help turn innovation into effective technology solutions.

## Multi-level Opportunities for IT Professionals

People with at least 6 months experience in any of the following technologies are most welcome to apply for the following positions.

**Database Administrators (DBA 0416)**
for Oracle, IBM DB2, Microsoft SQL Server, Sybase, or Informix

**Oracle Applications Administrators (OAD 0416)**
for Oracle E-Business Suite

**Systems Administrators (SA 0416)**
for Microsoft Server OS, Solaris, AIX, Linux, or HP-UX

**Web Server Administrators (WSA 0416)**
for IIS, Tomcat, Netscape, JBOSS, Websphere, or Weblogic

**Application Server Administrators (ASA 0416)**
for Websphere, Weblogic, or JBOSS

**Messaging Server Administrators (MSA 0416)**
for MQ Series, MSMQ, or TIBCO

**Middleware Administrators (MWA 0416)**
for Tuxedo, TIBCO, or COBRA

**Business Integration Platform Administrators (BIPA 0416)** for Websphere Business Integrator, Bea Aqualogic, TIBCO, or Microsoft Biztalk

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If you're looking for an exciting job that helps you become a technical expert, Accenture Technology Solutions is the place for you. To find out more or to submit your details online, go to: manila.recmgr@accenture.com, quoting the reference code. Or visit our website for more information.

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accenturetechnologysolutions.com/philippines

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## Accenture Jobfest

## Accenture Recruitment Center, G/F, Libran House, Rufino cor Legaspi Sts., Makati City

## 17 to 29 April 2006

## 8am to 6pm

We are in need of fresh graduates of IT, Engineering, Business, Finance, Liberal Arts or Social Sciences courses for immediate career opportunities in IT and Business Process Outsourcing. If you want to develop deep specialized skills by working on some of the largest and most challenging projects around, then join Accenture Jobfest. Bring your resumé, transcript of records or true copy of grades and 3 ID photos, and start your career right with Accenture. For directions to the venue, text ACCENTURE<space>RECCNTR to 2327 for Globe or 3911 for Smart subscribers.

To learn more about careers at Accenture, visit careers.accenture.com/philippines.

• Consulting • Technology • Outsourcing

JOB Market

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2006
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For jobseekers, log on to:
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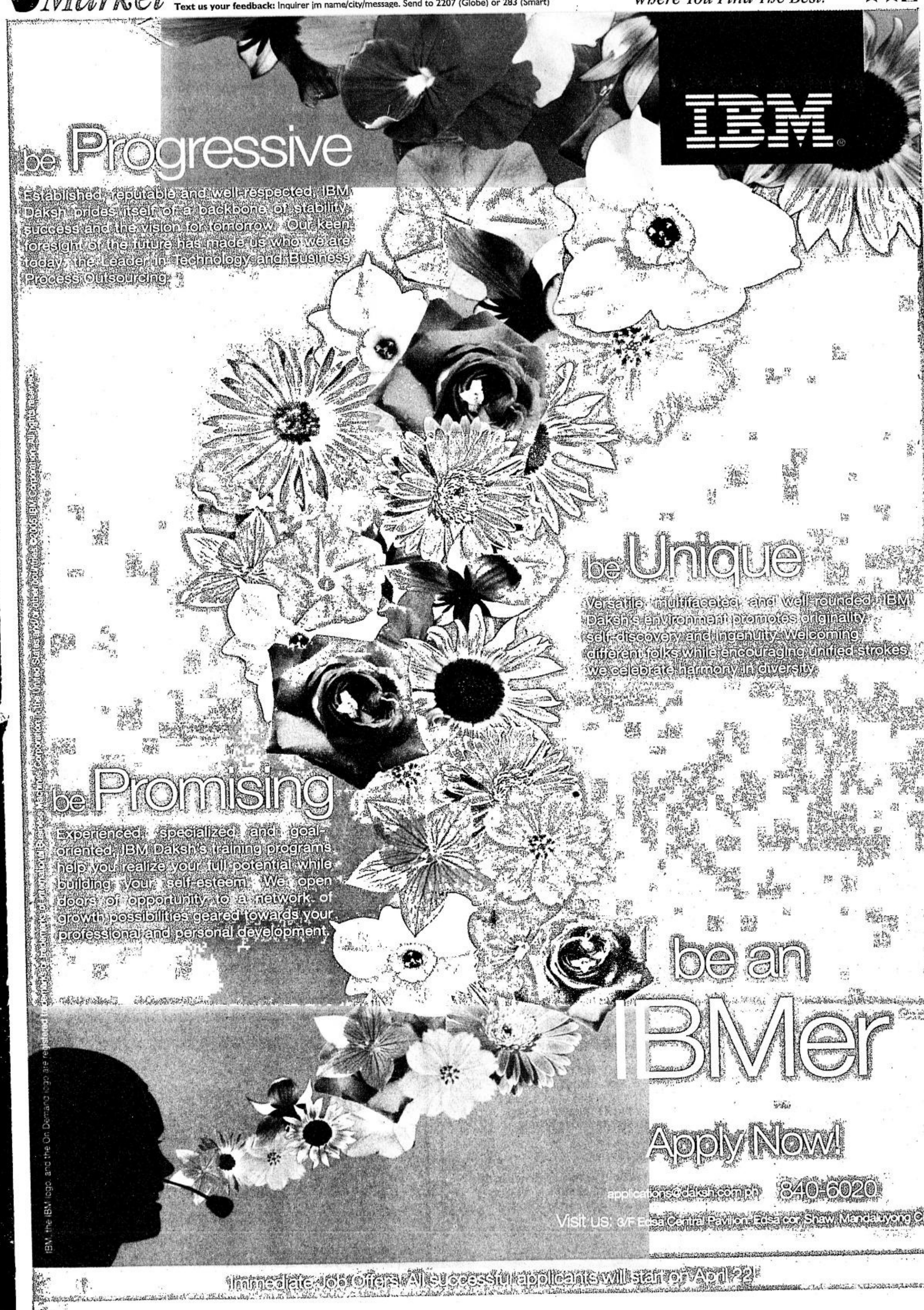
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Where You Find The Best.

★☆ 1




Immediate Job Offers! All successful applicants will start on April 22!

## IBM Daksh Business Process Services Philippines Inc.

Now hiring young, ambitious graduates to fortify the newest IBM network in Southeast Asia!

### Customer Care Specialists for Fortune 500 Companies

- Telecommunications ( Voice Support )
- Digital Imaging Company ( Voice Support ) - HR back office support ( Speaks German )
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support) - HR back office support ( Speaks Thai )

### Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

*Call center experience is an advantage*

### Support and Leadership Posts

- Operations Managers
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Deputy General Manager - Quality
- QA Manager - Six Sigma
- Deputy QA Managers
- QA Specialists - Strategic Quality
- Employee Relations Associates
- Assistant Manager - HR
- Manager - Events
- Manager - Communications
- Deputy Manager - EQC Branding
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Planning Manager
- Accounts Payable & Tax Accountant
- Sr. Recruitment Associates - Sourcing
- Voice and Accent Trainers
- Security Manager

-Relevant call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

**Power English Now!**

Power English Now! is a training program given to applicants who are interested in working for IBM Daksh. It is designed to help improve one's English communication proficiency and equip them with the necessary skills needed to be employed as a Customer Care Specialist.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Technical Support Representatives
Inbound/Outbound Sales Representatives
Customer Service Associates

- Administrative Assistant
- Corporate Asset Management Specialist
- Front Desk Associates
- OD Officer (OD Consulting)
- OD Officer (Career Development)
- Payroll Assistants
- Recruiting Specialists
- Applications Developer
- IT Help Desk Associates
- IT Project Leaders
- Senior Applications Developer
- Telecommunications Specialist 3
- Dialer Administrator
- Site Admin Officer
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Asiatown IT Park,
Lahug, Cebu City


TOPIGS
PROGRESS IN PIGS

**TOPIGS Philippines is searching for a general manager.**

**Company:** TOPIGS Philippines, with its headquarters in Ortigas Center, Pasig City is one of the market leaders in the field of pig genetics in The Philippines. TOPIGS Philippines is an affiliate company of TOPIGS International, a growing, innovative and one of the biggest worldwide operating pig breeding companies from and for pig producers with its headquarters in The Netherlands.

TOPIGS Philippines is seeking for a candidate for the position of

# GENERAL MANAGER

The GM reports directly to the company area manager and has profit responsibility for the business. The General Manager will manage all aspects of the business operations including production of breeding animals, sales and marketing of TOPIGS breeding animals and services, customer relations, delivery performance, staffing, contract negotiations, purchasing, planning, forecasting, budgeting and administration.

**Knowledge/Skills Requirements:**

- Academic training (master's or bachelor's degree) and work experience in the livestock industry (preferable in the pig industry) at management level
- Hands on manager with conviction and perseverance who can work under pressure.
- Demonstrated management and leadership capabilities, able to make decisions independently.
- Proven skills in marketing knowledge and technology.
- Is capable to develop integrated concepts.
- Proven communication skills:
  Well-developed interactive/presentation skills to communicate effectively detailed factual and conceptual information/strategies to internal and external audiences either on a one-to-one base. Well developed influence/interview/negotiation skills to serve the complex personal and business service needs of prospects and clients.

TOPIGS Philippines offers an interesting and many-side job in an ambitious and growing international organization. TOPIGS Philippines is prepared to offer a competitive salary and benefits package to the right candidate including training and education.

Please forward your resume to TOPIGS Philippines Inc. at info@topigsphil.com before May 1, 2006.

For more information you may contact Mr. Henk Janssen at henk.janssen@TOPIGS.com

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Scope of Work**
**I.T. Associate**

**Background**

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) is a five-year project being undertaken by a consortium led by Chemonics International in line with the USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, which is the achievement of "desired family size and improved health sustainability." The project focuses on three components, namely: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

PRISM IT infrastructure has three existing local area networks (LAN) namely in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. A new Luzon office is under construction in Pasig City. PRISM has six Windows Server 2003 and one Linux server, 60+ desktops and 60+ laptops. All four offices are linked via WAN VPN.

**Scope of Work**

General Task

The IT Associate will assist the IT Manager in providing first level technical support and solutions to the users of PCs, laptops, and printers in PRISM. The IT Associate performs troubleshooting of basic network problems and is responsible for the installation of new desktops, laptops and mobile printer, scanners and software. The IT Associate will serve as a backup in the absence of the IT Manager.

Specifically, the IT Associate will:

1. Setup and install new desktops, laptops and printers etc.
2. Install software and run software updates
3. Assists in network cabling
4. Coordinate with vendors for the delivery of new equipment and pull-out of defective hardware for repairs and maintenance
5. Assists the Admin Department in IT hardware inventory
6. Do backup administration of the servers

Specific everyday task and activities in supporting users and administering servers:

1. Setup, install and configure new desktops and peripherals
2. Installs MS Office 2003 Professional, Anti-virus, anti-spy ware. Install and configure antivirus & anti-spy ware software on each new desktop and run updates on the virus signatures to ensure they are up to date
3. Run updates on Windows XP Service Packs (if needed) and configure for auto-update each new desktop; run update on MS Office 2003 Pro and install service packs if needed
4. Provides technical support to staff request for help/assistance
5. Assists in tracing the voice and data cables and help prepare a network diagram.
6. Assists the Admin Department and keeping up to date inventory for all IT equipment.
7. Creates, delete, usernames and passwords for staff
8. Administer the servers as assigned by the IT Manager in the latter's absence.

**Deliverables and Report Requirements**

| | Deliverables |
|---|---|
| 1 | Updated inventory of all desktop, printer and scanners including the serial numbers, specs and user assignments. |
| 2 | Weekly service reports and logs of problems encountered, users affected, resolution done and status of problem. |
| 3 | Conduct basic IT tutorials to users (if needed) regarding Windows, MS Office (including PowerPoint, Excel, and Word), MME, Internet and email |

**Supervision**

The IT Associate will be supervised by the IT Manager.

**Qualifications**

- The IT Associate should have a Degree in BS Computer Engineering/Science (or any related IT course).
- At least three years of relevant work experience in a medium sized LAN with at least 50 users.
- Knowledgeable in software - Windows XP, MS Office, Internet and email client (Outlook 2003).
- Skilled with IT hardware (HP specific products) – desktops, laptops (IBM, Sony, Panasonic), printers, scanners, UPS
- Experienced in troubleshooting of LAN connectivity, Active Directory Services, Cat5e cabling, Wi-Fi standards (802.11a/b/g) , PLDT WeRoam (GPRS)w
- Thorough understanding of internet technologies such as search engine, yahoo email groups, instant messaging systems (IM)
- Expertise in Windows 2003 Server (Enterprise & Standard Editions) and Exchange Server 2003 is an added advantage

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 21st of April 2006. Please indicate the **subject** of your email as **"Position Code: IT".**

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Workforce Management Specialist • Organizational Development Supervisor • HR Assistants • Junior Graphic Artists • Network Specialist

**Manila Office:**
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Sales/ Marketing Managers/ Assistants • HR/ OD Assistant Manager • Financial Analyst • Executive Assistant • Administrative Assistants
Customer Service Specialists • Product Support Specialists( Korean, Thai, French, Spanish) • Technical Writers • Web Administrators
Flash/ Graphic Designers • Part-timers/ On-the-Job Trainees

Contact us

**Link2Support Cagayan de Oro:**
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## Financial Customer Service Associate

### Job Overview

The Financial Customer Service Associates for this account will be expected to handle inquiries from our client's financial advisors, customers, investors, and third party callers (banks). They are expected to process money movement requests on mutual funds, as well as to provide services such as account histories and tax information.

### Basic Qualifications

- Passion for solving problems
- Excellent analytical skills
- Strong oral and written English communication skills
- Excellent customer service orientation
- Preferably a graduate of finance, accounting or any business-related course from a top university or college

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**Join us in charting the path of a fast growing and stable bank.**

**If you are a highly motivated, competent and assertive professional, then you are the person we are looking for to fill in the following positions:**

**Account Officers (Consumer Loans & Account Management Group)**
- Business Course graduate
- With at least 3 years experience in generating and evaluating loan accounts gained from a bank/ financial institution
- With good analytical skills and credit judgment
- With excellent communication and marketing skills
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

**Branch Managers**
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- Not more than 45 years old
- With at least 3 years experience as Branch Head of a bank
- Must possess excellent managerial and leadership skills
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

**Treasury Marketing Officer**
- Business Course graduate
- With extensive experience in treasury operations, treasury product marketing and dealership

**Branch Operations Officers**
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With at least 2 years experience as Branch Operations Officer of a bank or its equivalent
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

**Supervising Examiner**
- Certified Public Accountant
- With experience in branch audit of a bank
- With excellent communication skills

**IT Auditor**
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- With experience in audit of various banking systems and operations
- With excellent communication skills

**Risk Management Officer**
- Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 3 years experience in Risk Management particularly in Credit, Market, Operational (includes technological), Interest, Liquidity and Compliance
- Knowledgeable in Credit Evaluation/Review, BSP Rules and Regulations, AMLA, Securities and Exchange Act, Insurance Act, Tax Laws and other laws affecting financial institutions, Open Market Operations such as Money Market and Quasi-Banking, Trust Operations, FCDU, and other Foreign Exchange Transactions and Trade Finance
- Understands the Philippine Accounting Standard No. 39
- With excellent English communication and technical report writing skills

**Marketing Assistants**
- Business Course graduate
- With above average scholastic records
- With pleasing personality and excellent interpersonal skills
- With strong sales and marketing background
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

**Tellers & New Accounts Clerks**
- Female, graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With above average scholastic records
- Must have pleasing personality and above average communication skills
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

**Replacement Pool for Tellers and New Accounts Clerk**
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With pleasing personality
- With above average scholastic records and communication skills
- Willing to be assigned in different branches

**Trader**
- Male/Female
- Graduate of any Business Course
- Ability to speak Chinese would be advantage

**Documentation Staff**
- College graduate with units in general law subjects
- Preferably a para-legal with good working background in litigation
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

**Credit Clerk**
- Business Course graduate
- With above average scholastic records
- With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills
- Experience in credit investigation would be an advantage

*Qualified applicants may send or personally submit their resume with 2x2 picture, and a copy of Transcript of Records at 350 Rizal Avenue Extension, Cor. 8th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City or email at: lopez_af@pbb.com.ph.*

*For inquiries you may call (02) 363-3333 local 2005/2007 look for Alma Dela Cruz.*

## Qatar Airways Recruitment

Qatar Airways is one of the world's fastest growing airlines with an expanding route network covering the Middle East, Far East, Africa, Asia and Europe, with a modern fleet of A300-600, A319/A320/A321 and A330 aircraft. We are soaring to greater heights by way of expansion and progress and we are based in Doha, a modern commercial centre and growing tourist destination.

**We invite applications for the following positions:**

**CORPORATE SALES EXECUTIVE** **(Ref.: CSE/MNL/0093/06)**

The successful candidate will be responsible in establishing new business and to achieve expected revenue target from corporate base while interacting and servicing corporate accounts.

The ideal candidate must have minimum of 3 years of sales and marketing experiences, preferably in a travel management company or in the hospitality industry.

Applicants must be a graduate and should be able to handle key accounts independently with minimum supervision. This rewarding and challenging position requires sound leadership qualities, excellent communication skills and must be an effective team player.

**SALES EXECUTIVE** **(Ref.: SE/MNL/0094/06)**

Applicants must have a degree in Marketing / Sales, with at least 3 years work experience in the airline or related industry and a good track record of sales/corporate sales achievements and strategic planning. Basic understanding of IATA standard reservation & ticketing procedures, exposure to AMADEUS system with excellent business/ corporate correspondence are essential requirements of the position.

**RESERVATIONS SUPERVISOR** **(Ref.: RS/MNL/0095/06)**

The applicant must have a minimum of 5 years supervisory work experience in telephone sales, reservations and ticketing within the travel industry and sound knowledge of IATA standard reservation & ticketing procedures. Exposure to AMADEUS system will be an advantage.

**SENIOR/ RESERVATIONS AGENT** **(Ref.:SRA/MNL/0096/06)**

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years travel industry work experience with a good background in IATA standard reservation & ticketing procedures. Applicants must have sufficient experience in telephone sales. Exposure to AMADEUS system will be an advantage.

For all the above positions, applicants should possess high proficiency in PC-based applications, effective communication skills in spoken and written English with excellent interpersonal skills.

The positions carry competitive remuneration package and benefits associated with the industry in addition to excellent career opportunities.

Please send your CV on or before **May 3, 2006** to the address below. Your CV should include a covering letter, quoting above reference number, full details of your career development to-date, including relevant training taken and a recent passport-sized photograph.

**Office of the Area Manager**
**Qatar Airways**
**2nd Floor, F & M Lopez Bldg. II**
**109 Carlos Palanca St., Legaspi Village**
**Makati City 1229**
**Philippines**

*For more information about Qatar Airways, we invite you to visit our website at www.qatarairways.com*
*Regretfully, due of the volume of the applications, only short-listed candidates will be contacted.*

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## (2) COOK

- Experience in Korean food is a must
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- High salary compensation
- No age limit

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**Bring NBI Clearance**

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Tel 631-4983; Telefax: 638-4774; Cel: 0917-8188180; 0917-8817078

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*We provide our customers with a superior experience and are a center of excellence for innovation worldwide. We learn, we discover, we work together as a team, and we always strive for excellence. To make great things possible.*

Awarded 2nd Place in the 2005 Corporate Governance Survey: Asset Benchmark Research (March 2005)

Best Telecommunications company in the Philippines by Consumer's Choice & Dangal ng Pilipinas Annual Awards (January 2004)

Awarded 4th Place in the 2003 Far Eastern Economic Review 200: Asia's Leading Companies, Philippines (December 2003)

Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) Employer of the Year (2000)

## We are in need of best-in-market talents to fill up the following positions with their corresponding qualification requirements:

### Head – Acquisition (Executive level)
- Graduate of Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- At least 5 years experience in consumer goods sales and/or marketing functions
- Possessed with strong leadership skills
- Possessed with project management & organization skills
- Ability to work well under pressure and deliver results for the brand.
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Head – Marketing Handset Planning (Managerial level)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in any field.
- Extensive experience in inventory management.
- Possessed with very good planning & organization skills
- Possesses with Strong leadership & negotiation skills

### Sr. Product Managers (Supervisory level)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree, Post Graduate Degree will be an advantage.
- At least 2 to 5 years marketing experience
- Extensive exposure in product strategies, researching/ identifying market needs, positioning, pricing and product performance
- Extensive exposure in product marketing activities, monitoring, preparing marketing reports, creating market messages, lead generation
- Possessed with market research project management & coordination skills
- Possessed with analytical skills and strategic planning skills
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Account Management Specialists (AMS) / Sr. Account Management Specialists (Sr. AMS)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Business, Marketing or Management.
- At least 2 years hands-on experience in Business Center or like environment **(For Sr. AMS)**
- At least 1 year hands-on experience or on-the-job training in Business Center or like environment. **(For AMS)**
- Possessed with analytical skills requiring keen attention to details
- Possessed with strong leadership skills
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Cashiers
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Finance/Accountancy/Banking, Commerce or its equivalent.
- At least 2 years experience in the field of cashiering and tellering.
- Very Customer service oriented.
- Willing to be assigned and / or be transferred to any business centers as necessary.

### Customer Service Associates / Assistants (CSA)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business, Marketing or Management
- Possessed with analytical skills requiring keen attention to details
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Sr. Account Managers (Supervisory level-Managerial level)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business, Marketing or Management.
- Relevant sales experience in industries such as Banking, Insurance, IT, Logistics, Transportation and Retail.
- Very customer service oriented; Independent and self driven
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Heads, SAP Financial Reporting
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with post graduate degree is an advantage
- SAP Certified Consultant on FI/CO
- At least 5 years experience with financial accounting
- Working knowledge of process and configuration issues with general ledger, bank accounting, cash journal accounting, and tax accounting
- Working knowledge of general process issues with chart of accounts, journal entries, accruals processing, availability control, master data maintenance, month-end processing, and year-end processing
- Working knowledge of profit center accounting, segment reporting, costs analysis and financial consolidation
- Project management experience with Business Process Reengineering, strategic planning, and full life-cycle systems integration
- Proven skills to analyze business functions, configure SAP applications, perform business tests of the related configuration, and train clients how to be self-sufficient with the new application.
- Capability to provide advice on methodology, procedures, functionality, and work methods to end-users and colleagues.

### Infrastructure and Storage Management (ISM) Consultant
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in any IT course
- At least 5 years related experience in infrastructure and storage management
- Extensive exposure in systems review and new/emerging technology assessment
- Possessed with project management skills
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Solutions Analysts
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in any IT course
- At least 3 years related experience
- Possessed with skills on Programming (C, Java, PHP & .net), Scripting (Unix, Linux), SQL (MS SQL, Oracle, My SQL)
- Must be willing to work on extended hours

### IT Cadets
- Graduates of SY 2005-2006 from any of the following degree courses: BS COMPUTER SCIENCE, COMPUTER ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS or any computer related courses belonging to top 10% of the class
- With high aptitude in programming & systems analysis and design
- Possessed with excellent business communications and interpersonal skills
- Possessed with strong leadership and analytical capabilities

### Cadet Engineers
- Graduates of S.Y. 2005 – 2006, with the degree of BS Electronics and Communications Engineer belonging to top 20% of the class
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Possessed with strong leadership and analytical capabilities

### Systems Administrator
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in any IT course
- At least 3 years of system administration in IT Operations preferably in a telco environment
- Experience in software development life cycle and project management will be an advantage
- Hands-on experience in HP-UX, AIX, Tru64, Linux and/or Win2k/NT applications a MUST
- Knowledge of system management, analysis of system outages, utilization of DB and System Performance Tools.
- Knowledge on Software Development Life
- Possessed with strong Business and User Orientation; Project Management skills an advantage standards and practices
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Must be willing to work on extended hours / shifting

### Operations Analysts
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in IT course or related courses
- At least 3 years of system administration experience in IT Operations preferably in a telco environment
- At least 2 years experience in HP-UX, Sybase, Oracle & NT Applications
- Possessed with strong business and user orientation; highly creative requirement definition, analysis & testing skills and project management skills
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Must be willing to work on extended hours

### ABAP Programmer
- Graduate of Bachelor's/College Degree in any IT course
- At least 5 years of SAP ABAP/4 programming
- With Experience in the following:
- SAP R/3 4.6c
- HR,FI, MM and PS
- Working in a HP/UX with Informix DB environment
- Strong configuration and testing documentation skills

### Computer Operators
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in any IT course
- At least 2 years experience particularly in data center operations
- Working knowledge in UNIX & Windows and backup process
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Sr. Accountants
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree and Professional Licensee in Accountancy.
- Knowledgeable in SAP, Auditing, PAS, IAS/32.
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- At least 3 years related experience, involving at least 3 busy seasons.

### Sr. Financial Analysts
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accounting, Economics, or Management, with post graduate degree and/or CPA and or a CFA charter holder/CFA candidate an advantage
- At least 3 years experience in corporate finance, valuation experience in a consulting firm, investment bank, accounting firm or major corporation (preferably in financial planning & analysis or strategic finance)
- Superior problem solving skills
- Well developed quantitative and financial modeling skills, including the ability to undertake sophisticated financial analyses
- Strong understanding of the principles of corporate finance, valuation techniques and financial statement analysis
- Strong interest in the integration of strategy and finance.
- Ability to work well under tight deadlines in a fast-paced, team-oriented, intense environment.
- Highly motivated, detail-oriented, team player with ability to manage multiple tasks.
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Fraud and Risk Specialists
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Business Studies/Administration/Management, Finance/Accountancy/Banking, Electronics and Communication, Psychology/ Behavioral Science.
- Possessed with high level of proficiency in computer applications; knowledge in Programming is a plus
- Very good mathematical knowledge and analytical ability to manipulate and interpret statistics/information
- Understanding of account management workflow (subscription, provisioning, billing and credit, complaints handling, audit and legal matters)
- Ability for data research, with logical thought processes and diagnostic /methodical actions
- Preferably with working experience and/or knowledge on telecommunication fraud/risk management, revenue/quality assurance, network/process/system quality control

### Training Consultants (Development Center)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Education, Learning Sciences, Psychology or Human Resources Management, relevant post graduate degree an advantage.
- At least 3 significant experience in training and education, end-to-end (from mid analysis design and development, delivery and evaluation of learning solutions), with strong program or project management experience; OD & general HR exposure will be a plus
- Experience in account management and corporate customer handling
- Possessed with strong analytical and conceptualization skills
- Results oriented, independent and self driven
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Sr. Specialist (Internal Communication)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree preferably in Mass Communication or related course (i.e., Organizational Comm., Broadcast Comm.), Multimedia Arts, Management of Communication Technologies.
- At least 2years significant experience in corporate communication, marketing, advertising, production or journalism
- Possessed with strong events management and project management skills
- Possessed with Graphic design (using Adobe applications & Video production)
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### Sr. HR Specialist (RRM)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in any field, preferably BS Industrial Engineering / Statistics / Psychology.
- Knowledge in Cost and Budget Analysis.
- With very good analytical and mathematical skills.
- Proficient in MS Office Application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access).
- At least 3 years of related experience
- Possessed with excellent interpersonal & communication skills

### HR Specialist (Employee Relations)
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or equivalent.
- At least 1year experience in Human Resources or equivalent, preferably in Employee Relations
- With experience in Corporate Events Management and Basic Project Management Skills, graphic design exposure will be an advantage
- Willing to work long hours

*Interested parties who meet the above requirements may apply through www.globe.com.ph or by sending resumé with 2x2 picture and a photocopy of their transcript of records at the*

*3rd Floor, Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer cor. Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City 1552.* ***For AMS, Sr. AMS, Cashier & CSA positions only applications through the latter means will be entertained.***

---

**Inno Restaurant and Bar**

We are in need of a top caliber individual to fill in the position below:

**MARKETING SPECIALIST**

**Responsibilities:**
- To effectively and enthusiastically promote the bar's services and products
- Implement marketing strategies
- Organize events and venue reservations
- Conceptualize sales/marketing activities and promos

**Requirements:**
- Female, 25 to 35 years old, must possess at least a Bachelor's College Degree in Sales & Marketing or equivalent
- With excellent communication skills, Fluent in English
- With experience from an event management company
- With attractive personality to attract corporations
- Personable, assertive and able to deal and communicate with different types of people
- Strong background in banquet sales, telemarketing, and events-handling is a definite advantage
- Proficient in MS Office (Word, Excel & Powerpoint)

**Interested applicants may hand carry their resumé at Inno Bar and Restaurant located at 40 Sergeant Esguerra St., corner Eugenio Lopez St., Quezon City or email to: innobar.philippines@yahoo.com. For inquiries you may call 7711277 – Contact Person: Ruby Roque**

---

**PIMSAT Colleges**

An ISO-9001-2000 Certified and a leading college in Dagupan City, Pangasinan is in need of

**VICE PRESIDENT**
**FACULTY MEMBERS**
*(HRM, Engineering, Nursing, Criminology, Maritime)*

Interested applicants may send resumé or apply in person at:

**Room 303 Delta Bldg. West Avenue, QC or at PIMSAT Colleges, Bolosan District, Dagupan City**

---

**URGENT !!!**
**(1) BOOKKEEPER &**
**(1) CASHIER**
- Female, 21-25 yrs. old, full-time
- Accounting graduate preferably
- At least 6 mos. experience

***If you're interested kindly bring the ff:***
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# Life after work

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CELEBRATED TODAY, Easter Sunday, by the whole Christendom continues to challenge the human mind to fathom its deep significance in our life. As the first witnesses of the event, Peter and John, "did not yet understand... that he (Jesus) had to rise from the dead." Many of us also cannot find greater significance in our work than its material and transitory elements. Yet, there are many instances in life which seem to convince us that work ultimately "lives on" even after the worker is gone from this world.

History records memories of men and women known for their works or professions. These persons are alive in the minds and hearts of those who admire their significant contribution to society or to the world. Their works are being studied and analyzed by educators for the younger generations to imitate and learn from. Yet, how many of them while still alive could foretell that what they were doing would survive them in history? Perhaps some of them really believed and were aware that their deeds would live on through the ages. It could even be possible that such faith and awareness had pushed them to do their job so meaningfully and successfully that it merited for them fame and honor in the world.

But the worker who believes that his deeds and works are his way of uniting with the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ would not only "see" the value and meaning of his toil, suffering and difficulties at work but would also "live" not only in the minds and hearts of humans but also in the loving embrace of the Heavenly Father. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

**Gospel: John 20:1-9**

*For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.*

# A different death

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AS WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S RESURRECTION, MY mind wanders off to another kind of death. There's a saying that goes, "You are only as good as your last deed." It means a person is remembered for the last thing he is known to have done. Thus, even if one lives a life of virtue, but ends it with a scandal, his whole glorious past gets obliterated by that last foul-smelling deed. In fact, one doesn't even have to die to be so condemned. That "last deed" could be the last deed uncovered before one—still alive— disappears from the scene.

That's exactly what happened to Mr. Mark X, president of a multinational corporation. He was a much respected, even revered man in the corporate circles. "Awesome" was the word the up-and-coming managers used to describe him, and they held him in a mixture of admiration and fear for he was both kind-hearted and strict. Then one day he simply disappeared without a trace. Nothing else would be known about him for weeks except that he had fled the country for a destination only the head office abroad knew. After three months, an exposé in a local paper told the whole story—of how Mr. Mark X had funneled a mighty huge sum of money into his private bank account, of alliances with shady characters that hinted at decadence and debauchery—the works. People could hardly believe it, especially those who had so admired him, but it was the truth. It was "a fate worse than death," everybody agreed and pitied his family who were still around to suffer the ignominy his misdeed had caused. His whereabouts is now a mystery, his "last deed" having hurled him into a place in human memory that's reserved for the living dead.

If a man's reputation "dies" this way, is there a "resurrection" to look forward to? With that to ponder, we greet you a glorious Easter! (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

# Gov't employee needs career change

By Tita Datu Puangco

**I AM A GOVERNMENT EMployee and presently holding a permanent position as an information officer for the last 15 years. Lately, I find myself browsing job vacancies online. I enjoy what I do as my present job is a breeze. However, I haven't been considered for promotion despite my efforts and an additional degree—I'm done with my master's. I can't afford to go jobless now. Is it time for a career change? What do you suggest? Please help, I'm losing interest! Thanks!**

**Wallflower**

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

You are ripe for a job change. I can sense from your letter that you will enjoy new job challenges compared to simply settling in your comfort zone. Yes, you can browse online job markets. But I suggest you take an extra step and actually apply for jobs that are within your areas of interest and skill set.

So, what steps can you take? First, develop your vision for your career. How do you see yourself in five years time? What kind of tasks will you enjoy doing? What kind of structure and systems will appeal to you? What kind of organizational culture will allow you to give your best? What competencies can you use or acquire to prepare for the future job. Some of our readers may say, grab the first job that becomes available to you. I suggest you take your time to write down your vision, even translating it into an attractive slogan. A vision will allow you to stretch your aspiration that may have been stifled by 15 years of loyal government service.

Second, prepare your resumé. Do an inventory of all the projects and initiatives that you have undertaken at work. Take note of all the skills and competencies you have acquired as you moved from one position to another. Recall all the workshops, conferences, seminars you have attended. Better still, prepare a folio of programs, projects and materials that you have developed in the past. Then, develop your resumé. Some college professors propose being concise and direct to the point in writing your bio-data. As an employer and HR practitioner, I would prefer to read and understand in a more total way the person who is applying for a position. This way I don't simply see the "tip of the iceberg" but I gain an appreciation of the entire person. Make sure your resumé is written well, without typographical errors. Reproduce several copies.

Third, practice being interviewed. Get a friend or relative who understands behavior-based interviewing to coach or mentor you. There is an art to scoring well in interviews. Interviewing and being interviewed is a skill. Like all skills, practice makes perfect.

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Fourth, make a listing of companies that interest you. Check out company websites and see which companies match your dream job. Then inquire from friends, acquaintances and employees you know if they are aware of vacancies. You can also proactively call up the recruitment department and set an appointment to give your resumé personally. My realization is this: in our country, person-to-person communication is still superior to communicating through letter or e-mail.

Fifth, if vacancies do not exist in the companies you like, then scan newspaper ads and browse online job sites. If you search for a job in a purposive and persistent manner, before long you will find a job. My final message is to get on with the search and enjoy it. If you need your present job badly, then do the search activities while keeping your job. Avail of your vacation leaves if you have to go for interviews and other job-hunting related activities. After all, when you leave, you want people to remember you with a sterling professional image. All the best.

By the way, on April 21, an AIM Alumni Leadership Forum will be held at Pryce Plaza Hotel in Cagayan de Oro. Special speaker and guest is Professor Titong Gavino. Please contact Tony Acupan at mobile phone no. 0922-8992558 or e-mail acacupan@yahoo.com.

*(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax 892-2902. *For other inquiries, please call* 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)

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# 'My manager does not support me'

**RECENTLY, I WAS TRANSferred to a department. I report to a manager who I feel does not support me. In one instance, I asked him for specific directions to complete the task he had assigned to me. Instead of giving me specific directions, he referred me to a more senior member of our team. My manager also told me to take more initiative and not rely on him for specific instructions. In another instance, my manager chastised me for not showing to him first a report I submitted to another department.**

**More and more, I am getting confused. All I know is that I don't get enough support from my boss. I don't want to get transferred again so soon to another department, as I might be labeled "a rolling stone that gathers no moss." Can you please give me tips on how to handle a boss who does not support his subordinates?**

**Confused Subordinate**

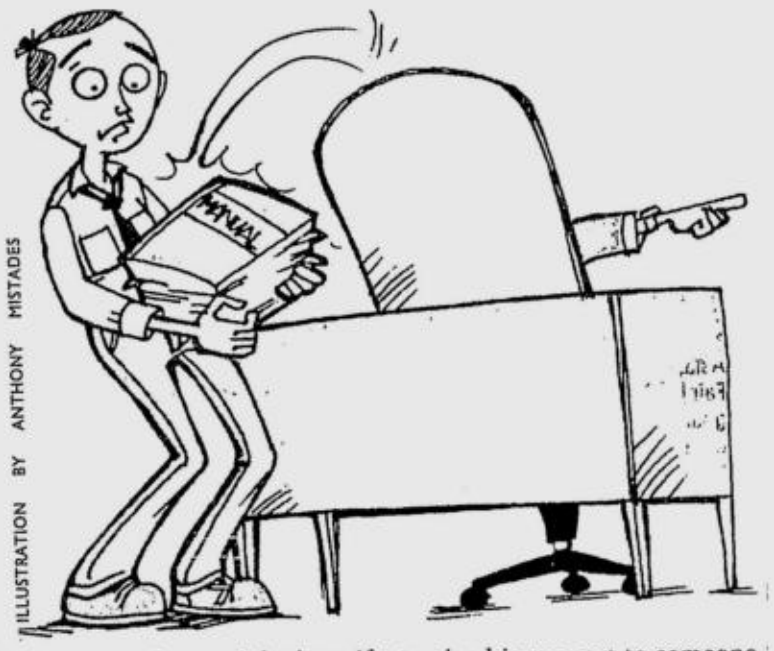


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

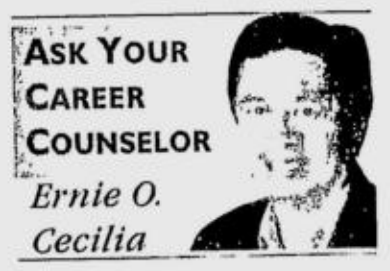
Firstly, let me assure you that many employees experience lack of support from their bosses. In reality, managers have more tasks and therefore don't have the luxury of time to coach and teach subordinates. Many times, they are just busy with their own deliverables, even as they try to adjust to their own bosses' styles of managing.

The best way to gain your manager's support is through the actions that you take as you perform your job. Your manager's action is usually a reaction to your action. Here are a few tips that can help you gain your manager's support.

### Highlight your value

People are by nature egoistic, and managers are no exception. The quickest way to get your boss interested in what you are doing is to make him see the value of what you do. Analyze the relationship between your job and your manager's goals, dreams and aspirations. If your job does not have the remotest connection to his goals or deliverables, it will be difficult for him to see the value of whatever you are doing. In short, you and your job will be low priority for him.

One way to look for this connection is to ask this question: "What are the most important parts of my job that, if done with excellence, can lead to the success of my boss?" Conversely, look for the parts of your job that, if neglected, can lead to the collapse of your department. Of the 10 things you do, usually only one or two will be truly important to your boss. To get his attention and support, focus on these most important results. Keep your boss posted on developments and he will soon realize the value of what you do.



ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
*Ernie O. Cecilia*

### Get manager's confidence

Once he sees your value, you'll have his attention. Start working on developing his confidence in your capability. For each of your key results areas, prepare specific plans on how to make a difference in your department, enough to make your boss look good in the eyes of his bosses or peers.

This means that you must make improvements—do things faster, better, or at lesser cost. If your performance just meets his expectations, it will not register and you will lose his attention. You will become just a face in the crowd. Start planning to make a small difference. Also, make sure that he notices the difference you make. Develop the reputation as somebody he can rely on to contribute to his success.

### Understand his mood

Prepare well to discuss your plans with your boss. You only have one opportunity to make a great first impression—don't blow it. When your boss starts to develop his confidence in your abilities, he will be more interested to hear how your plans can impact on his overall effectiveness. He cannot afford to give his support to someone who helps ensure his success.

Sometimes, managers have their own moods also. When you think you're not getting the support you need, find out if it happens to everybody else or it's just one of his silly moods. If it's his style not to be supportive, go through the process I suggested earlier. If you think it's his mood, understand why he is moody. Schedule a meeting when his mood improves and is more likely to listen to you. Managers have great pressures that contribute to their moods.

Remember that your manager needs your help to achieve his objectives. You, too, will need your manager's understanding and support so that you can achieve your career and personal goals. It does not take a genius to realize that the best way for both of you to succeed is to work for each other, not against each other. Let there be a supportive environment—and let it begin with you, if it has to.

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

*(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to:* ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

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## U-belt career fair

AS THOUSANDS OF new college graduates ponder the prospect of finding their first major job, St. Thomas Square announces the holding of it's first U-Belt Career Fair. Working with industry-leading job placement ad network, Philippine Daily Inquirer JobMarket and event organizer Seis Asia, the U-Belt Career Fair has one simple goal—uniting students, graduates and successful applicants seeking new career options with the finest employers in the country. The U-belt Career Fair will be on April 28-29 at St. Thomas Square located at Espana Blvd. cor. Padre Campa Street, Sampaloc, Manila. For more information, visit www.stthomassquare.com /seisasia or call Joyce Paguio at 722-9303 or 722-5221.

## Pag-IBIG releases over P36B in loans in 2005

THE PAG-IBIG FUND, one of the country's leading government financial institutions and the biggest financier of the government's housing program, has set two all-time records in the granting of loans to its members in 2005, according to its President and CEO lawyer Romero Federico Quimbo. Under its short-term loan programs covering multi-purpose and calamity loans, the agency extended a record P18.54 billion to its more than six million members nationwide, an eight-percent increase from the previous year's release of P17.13 billion. The year likewise saw more housing loans approved for individual housing borrowers at P15.29 billion. Quimbo said that the loans released by the Fund under its housing and short-term lending programs were recorded as the highest in the Fund's 25-year history.

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# 2 DENTAL ASSISTANTS

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** Associate Degree with two (2) years post-graduate dental assisting experience or high school graduate with three (3) years dental assisting and full registration or certification required.

# 2 DENTAL X-RAY TECHNICIANS

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Two (2) years of related experience

# PHARMACIST

**EDUCATION:** B.S. Degree in Pharmacy

**QUALIFICATIONS:** With 2-4 years related experience. Solid knowledge of internet search engines and strategies related database applications. Experience in Drug information, pharmacy, medical journal publishing is required. With extensive experience in research and good communication skills.

**QUALIFIED APPLICANTS** must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, diploma and transcript of records, board license / certificate, valid PRC card, two (2) letters of reference from previous/current supervisor. No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi), passport copy (if available) and 1 pc. passport size picture, between 8-4 PM at MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, Window K, Ground Floor, Blas F. Ople Bldg. (formerly POEA Bldg.), Ortigas Ave. cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City or the nearest POEA Regional Extension Unit for the issuance of KFSH Application Form and Skills Checklist.

**NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.**
Arrange in a cream folder all xerox copies chronologically in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements. Bring original documents arranged in similar manner for verification

For QUALIFIED NURSES please send updated CVs to poea_gpb@yahoo.com

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## GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM

**A Project of the United States Agency for International Development**
**The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.**
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**USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00**

**URGENT REQUIREMENT**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program, a component of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, works with Parent-Teachers-Community Associations (PTCAs) and school administrators, to provide selected schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and in other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao (CAAM) with a high speed internet connection, a local area network, up to ten computers and a printer, relevant software, a range of computer reference materials, web cameras, and training for teachers on how to use and maintain the resources given to the school. CLIC is now inviting interested and qualified individuals to join its roster of program personnel. Applications are now being entertained for the following positions:

**A. Solar Energy Consultant (based in Davao City)**

Reporting to the CLIC Program Manager, this is a 4-month consultancy position based in Davao City with frequent travels in the ARMM and CAAM. Primary responsibilities are to (a) supervise and oversee contractor(s) who will implement solar-powered, internet-connected computer laboratories in Basilan and Maguindanao; (b) ensure the completion of these projects on time: and (c) document the implementation experience of these projects and provide technical inputs in order for the Program to develop its own baseline information to guide future solar project installations.

**Qualifications:** Relevant engineering degree and appropriate certifications and training in the expertise sought; experience in projects involving solar energy systems design and installation to support internet-connected computers; experience in working with foreign-funded projects in the ARMM and CAAM; strong oral and written communication skills.

**B. Assistant Program Manager (based in Davao City)**

Reporting to the CLIC Program Manager, this position provides leadership and management support in the day-to-day operations of the program. It requires extensive travel in the ARMM and CAAM. Primary responsibilities include: (a) ensuring quality control of program implementation activities; (b) coordinating and managing partner-provided training support to CLIC partner schools; (c) assist partner schools in developing sustainability plans and monitoring their implementation; (d) taking the lead in managing program web content development and improving the program database; (e) managing relationships with various hardware suppliers and internet service providers (ISP); and (f) maintaining and developing relationships with other program stakeholders and organizations.

**Qualifications:** Relevant degree in Social Science, Management or Education with strong information technology (IT) background (a related graduate degree will be an advantage); 3 to 5 years management experience in education projects with an IT component; knowledge of key IT issues in the education sector; superior written, verbal and presentation skills; networking, negotiation and people management skills; demonstrated capacity in project planning, implementation and monitoring; experience in working with foreign funded projects in the ARMM and CAAM.

**C. CLIC Technical Assistants (one in each of the following cities: Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato and Zamboanga)**

Reporting to the CLIC Program Manager, each of these positions provides support to the area-based Technical Specialists. Primary responsibilities of each are to: (a) assist the Technical Specialist in completing Program installation targets; (b) provide technical support to CLIC partner school computer laboratory managers or IT coordinators on questions relating to procedural and technical matters (hardware, software, networking or Internet connection); (c) cognizant of new and emerging technologies that might improve the performance of CLIC resources in schools and lower Program implementation costs; (d) maintain and update program database; (e) improve counterpart relationships with program partners and stakeholders; and (f) perform other IT-related tasks.

Each Technical Assistant has the following areas of responsibility corresponding to their base:
(a) Cagayan de Oro City - Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Sur, and Lanao del Norte
(b) Cotabato City - Maguindanao, North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Sarangani
(c) Zamboanga City - Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

**Qualifications:** Relevant degree in Computer Science or Engineering, IT or a related field; demonstrated competence in PC repair and troubleshooting, software installation, local area networking, and computer virus protection and prevention; familiarity with various types of Internet connections and Internet configurations; good oral communications and report writing skills; creative problem solving and people skills; self-starter with a strong work ethic; ability to work in a team environment and needing little supervision for individual tasks. The following additional qualifications would be an advantage: (a) experience in working in foreign-funded projects in the ARMM and CAAM; (b) familiarity with the Department of Education; and experience in open-source computing.

**D. CLIC Administrative Assistant (based in Davao City)**

Reporting to the CLIC Program Manager, this position provides administrative support to all the CLIC program personnel in accordance with program objectives and targets, policies and procedures. Primary responsibilities are to: (a) provide the team with the administrative support in the collection, filing and archiving of relevant documents (b) assisting the CLIC Procurement Coordinator in the documentation of procurement activities; (c) organizing incoming written communications according to priority and helping to draft official responses to recurring and common queries; and (d) explaining to interested parties the various Education-related activities of the GEM Program.

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree and at least 1 to 2 years experience in a similar capacity; demonstrated proficiency in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint; familiarity with Internet searches; competence in written/spoken English including composing correspondence and report writing; ability to work in a team environment with little supervision of day-to-day tasks; willingness to work extended hours from time to time; good people skills and a self-starter with a strong work ethic.

**E. CLIC Accounting Clerk (based in Davao City)**

Reporting to the CLIC Program Manager and the GEM Project Accountant, this position provides accounting and bookkeeping support to the CLIC Program in accordance with program objectives and targets, policies and procedures. Primary responsibilities are to: (a) ensure that CLIC Program accounts are kept up to date, and (b) monitor program expenditures in coordination with the CLIC Procurement Coordinator.

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree, preferably in Accounting; at least 2 years experience in a similar capacity; demonstrated proficiency in MS Word and Excel; competence in written/ spoken English; ability to work in a team environment with little supervision of day-to-day tasks; willingness to working extended hours from time to time; good people skills and a self-starter with a strong work ethic.

**F. CLIC Driver**

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# INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

APRIL 16, 2006



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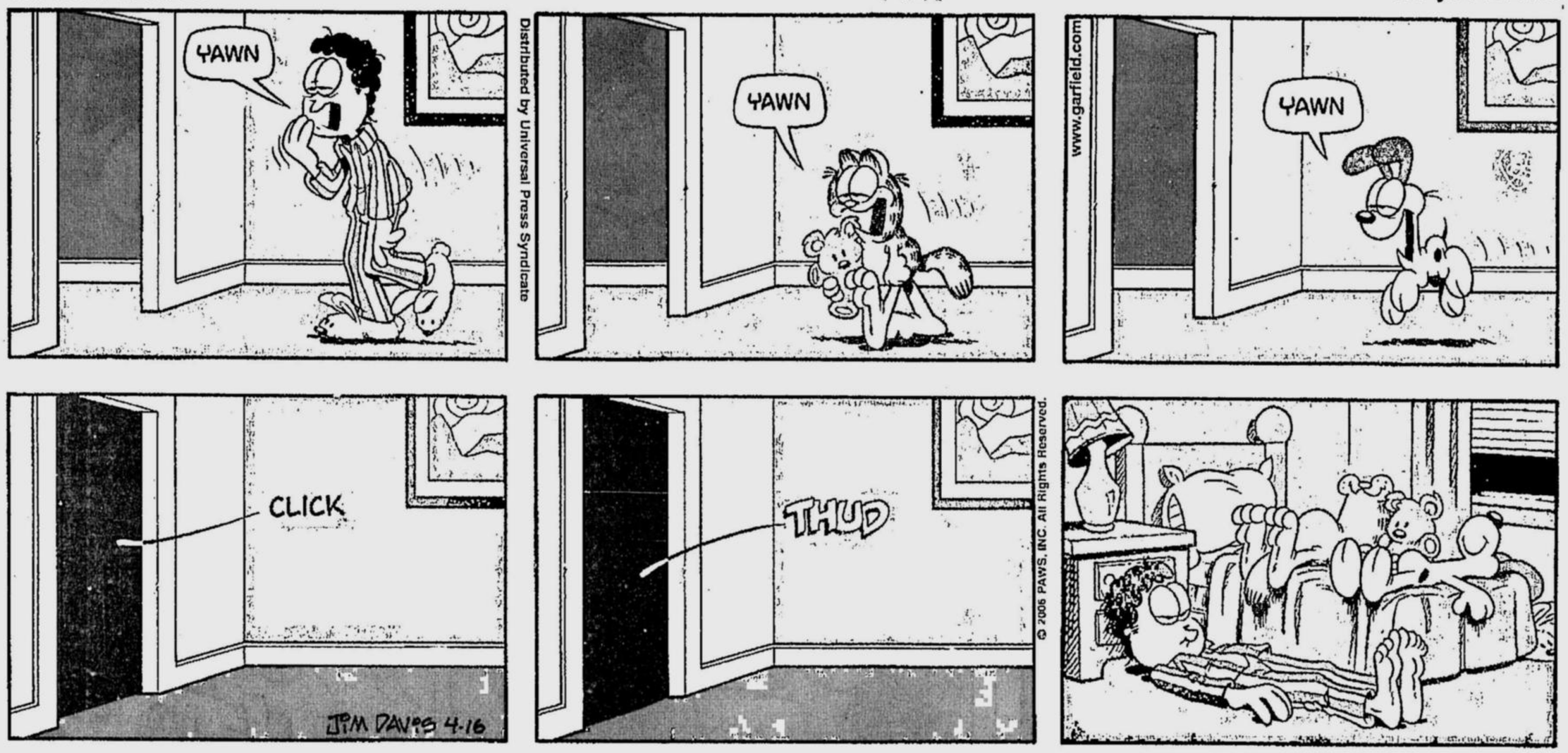


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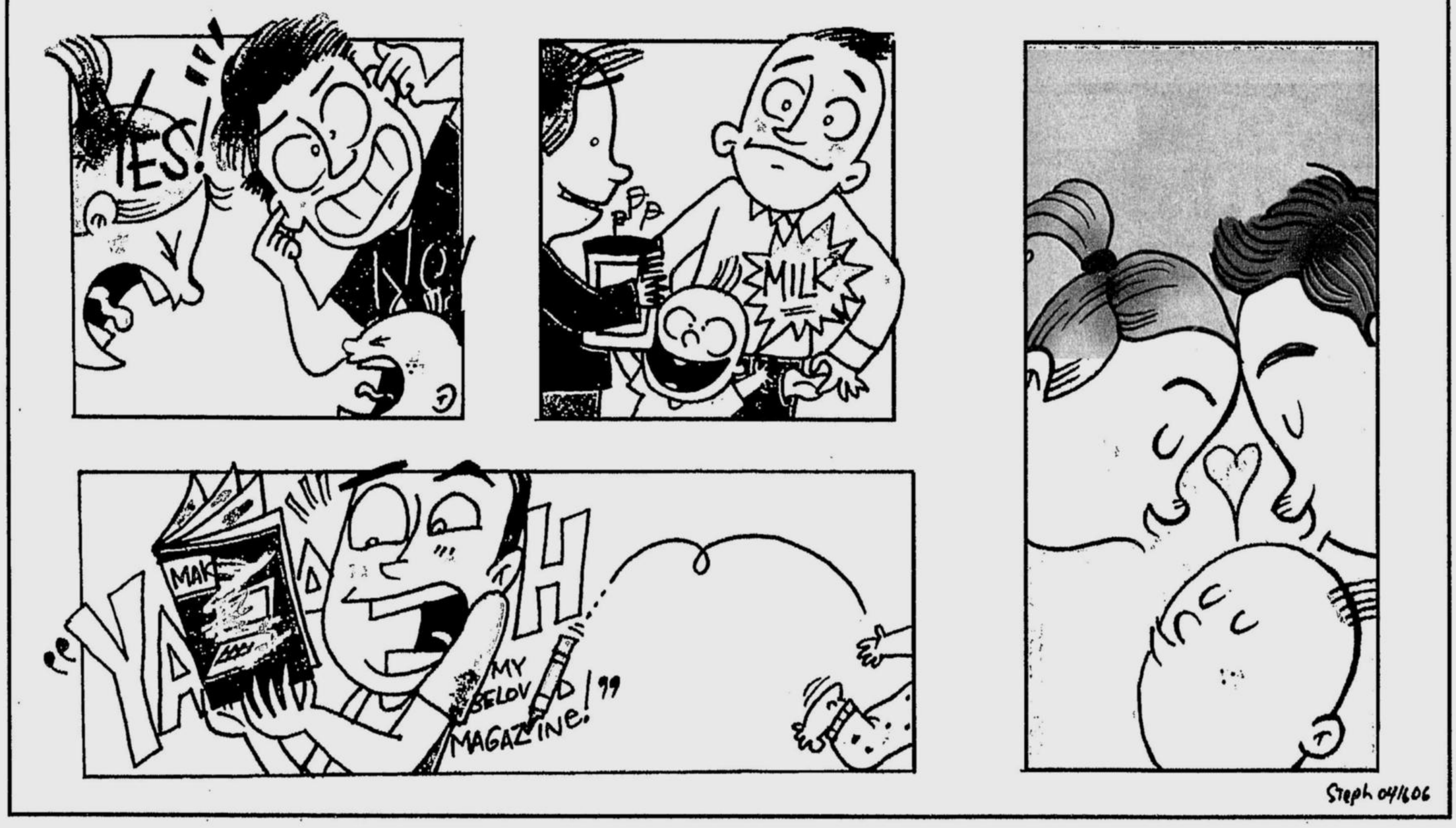

April 16, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

TJ Trinidad

# How did this shy, solitary guy become a soapstar?

**It took a while for this soft-spoken business graduate to get used to being a dramatic actor—but he'd still rather be playing his guitar and writing songs than kissing the ladies on camera, thank you**

*by Alya B. Honasan*
*photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento*

**THE day we photographed TJ Trinidad for this Easter Sunday cover, we were confronted with a freak mid-summer rain. After days and days of brilliant sun, the city woke up to a wet day with sickeningly gray skies. Would the handsome TV actor, best known as the clueless Carding on the hit soap "*Gulong ng Palad*," the celluloid wuss with the most heartbreaking pair of eyes on Philippine television today, object to shooting in a shower?**

**Then he arrived, in shorts and T-shirt and all by his lonesome, and I figured he wouldn't. He failed to bring a bathing suit to jump into the pool in, so Monique Trinidad-Toda, director of communications of the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila and, serendipitously, TJ's first cousin, scored a pair of basketball shorts from the fitness center—along with a pair of skimpy scarlet trunks. "F--k, are you kidding me?!" TJ exclaims with a nervous laugh at the sight of the trunks.**

TJ is, in one word, a dude, albeit a subdued one. Think Heathcliff in board shorts, still thankfully lacking in overt vanity after his huge TV exposure. It's not the 30-year-old actor's first soap—he's played the third point in a love triangle with Judy Ann Santos and Robin Padilla in "*Basta Kasama Kita,*"

To page 2

photographed at the
**Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila**
special thanks to
**Monique Trinidad-Toda**

The makeup beauty is still a 'probinsyana', *p.3*

The actor takes care of aging priests , *p.4*

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**Noteworthy**
*by Dolly E. Borlongan*

# Lent through a widow's eyes

*The wife banker Ted Borlongan left behind finds meaning in her own pain through the suffering and resurrection of Christ*

*"It was on Holy Week five years ago when Urban Bank underwent its crisis with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that led to a bank holiday a few days later. Since then, Holy Week for me has been a painful recollection as well as a spiritual reflection for purpose. But I still look forward to the Easter."* Ted Borlongan, March 22, 2005

**LENT is an opportunity for us to pause from our busy lives and examine ourselves as we go through our spiritual preparation for Christ's death and resurrection. The ash we received on our forehead was a reminder of our mortality. This is a public witness to the reality of death. None of us know when we will die, so we have to be prepared to meet God face to face.**

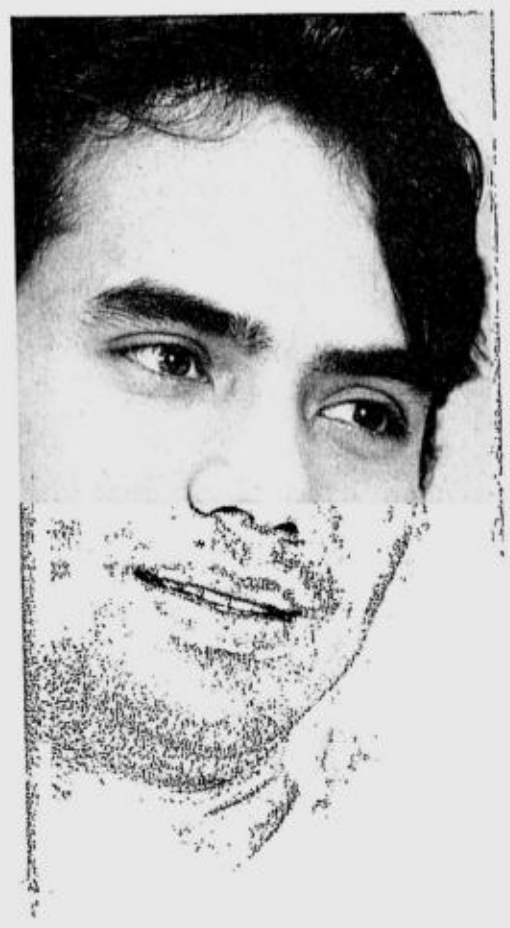
As Ash Wednesday ushered in the season of Lent, I pondered on my relationship with God in the midst of the pain I feel in losing my husband and seeing my children's pain. After Ted left us last April 11, 2005, everything lost its meaning. I felt lost without Ted, abandoned and confused. I felt guilty for not having prevented Ted from taking his life. I had to numb my feelings to be able to function for the sake of my kids. I hid from myself. I put on masks to cover up the searing pain I continue to feel inside. I still keep wishing that things were different, that I'd wake up from this nightmare and be in Ted's arms. I plodded through life—mechanical, in a trance, like a robot, just surviving.

I stayed with Ted everyday in Loyola Memorial Park, talking with him, praying for him, asking him for a sign to let me know where he is. I told Ted I'm not letting him go. He has to stay with me. It's so hard to accept that Ted is really gone, especially the way he left.

Ted told me before that on our Silver Wedding anniversary, he would once again walk me down the aisle and take me to the altar to renew his marriage vows to me. Last January 24, 2006 was our silver wedding anniversary. I attended the 7 a.m. Mass, then stayed with Ted the whole morning in Loyola. I stayed home after and declined my Dad's dinner invitation. I wanted to be alone in my emptiness. My Dad said, "There are things we cannot change and have to accept. We live for the living and remember those we lost. Nothing is permanent in this life. We should always move forward."

So as I went through my own 40 days of Lent, I prayed for God's mercy, to give me strength to accept my trial and carry my cross. That means letting go and centering myself on God's will. As everyone ends their 40 days of Lent, I ask you all to please help me get Ted to Heaven. A visionary I met last February 9, 2006 told me that St. Anthony de Padua said Ted is right at the door of purgatory, but can't get out because I won't let him go, and because he is waiting for prayers. If Ted's eternal peace is also dependent on my letting him go, please pray that I, too, will accept God's will, that my loneliness will turn into solitude, and my aching emptiness be filled with love and peace.

Ted's first year anniversary was last Holy Tuesday, April 11, and his 51st birthday was yesterday, Black Saturday, April 15. Please help me to help Ted find his Easter. Q



# TJ ...from page 1

as well as a role in "Kristala." In the former, his TV acting debut (after a slew of commercials—Swatch, Close-Up, PLDT), "I was petrified," TJ declares emphatically, in the soft, slow but articulate drawl he occasionally peppers with mild cuss words. This is, after all, a guy who plays guitar in a rock band called Mofo, short for another juicy expletive, a name the band chose after vainly trying to find "some deep name with a profound meaning—when it all really boils down to this!

### Out of his shell

"I was so nervous on the set of 'Basta,' I panicked," he continues. "The first day of shooting, I was in a corner, thinking, what am I doing? I've always been shy, until I realized it was affecting my work. It took me a while to come out of my shell."

One of seven siblings, and born to a Filipino father, an airline pilot, and a Norwegian mother, Raul Fenstad Trinidad (or TJ, for Trinidad Jr.) didn't exactly grow up comfortable with Filipino. "It took me a while to get used to it. When you converse, okay *lang*, but when you read lines it's different." And how exactly did he emerge from his shell? "I would just practice a lot of Tagalog at home. I'd read comics, and I didn't watch cable TV, just Pinoy movies and soaps. I talked to the house help in Tagalog, and started to process in Tagalog. It took about four months, but when I finally relaxed, that's when the fun started."

TJ had been toying with the idea of becoming an actor for a while, but first earned his commerce degree from De La Salle University in 1999, working for several years after that. He traded on the money market, took a short course in network engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, and came home to work with another company, which eventually folded up.

That was when he broached the idea of trying out showbusiness to family friend Edu Manzano, who promptly introduced TJ to his own long-time manager June Torrejon. "*Tita* June wants to kill me sometimes, because my hair is always a mess and I don't shave," TJ says with a laugh. "She says, 'Will you please look decent?' and I say, 'Why? I look alright.' I'm most comfortable like this, but I do brush my hair and throw on a nice shirt if it's an important event."

### Intense

"*Gulong ng Palad*" is probably the most intense project TJ has ever worked on, as it entailed taping some 20 weeks' worth of tear-jerking episodes last year. "I was pretty much depressed all the time when we were taping because of the story, which was *really* sad. We'd tape three times a week, but those were 24-hour days, so it felt like five days. You sleep all day between tapings, then it's back to the shoot in Pampanga, and they're giving you the sequence guide—you have to cry here, treat Luisa (Kristine Hermosa's character) bad there. It was a relief when it ended."

And how did he find his character? "Appalling and stupid," he says with a laugh. "I mean, people hated me! I don't know any mama's boy who's this bad! He doesn't really think for himself, it's almost unreal. But that's what the story calls for, so you do your best."

Shyness notwithstanding, TJ does take his work seriously, and he admittedly had fun playing somebody he didn't like. "That should be motivation alone, to see if you can pull off the character. What you feel the character is about is separate from whether or not you like him. It's a job you have to do."

We tell him that, because of those hazel eyes—"Sometimes they're green," TJ says matter-of-factly—he is quite a sight when he's sobbing away. "You can't help it, because you really do have to feel the character. I get tunnel vision when I'm acting, so I focus on what I'm doing and don't really see everyone else who's not in the scene."

### No barometer

He'd rather cry by himself, however, than take on delicate scenes with Kristine. "Hey, man, those scenes were hard! People think it's all *masarap*, but the first time we had a kissing scene, Kristine was laughing at me. She asked me, *'Bakit ka nanginginig* (Why are you shaking)?' and I said, 'I don't know!'"

With "*Gulong*" wrapped up (he told us how the story would progress, but hey, we're not telling) and more recent TV appearances opposite Jasmine Trias and good friend Jodi Santamaria in the can, TJ isn't holding his breath about his future. "I have no barometer for this, so even if the changes people say will happen do happen, I can't quite imagine them yet. I don't know what to expect, but I hope it turns out for the best. I enjoy the work, and as much as I can I'd like to keep doing it, but I don't want the work to define me or dictate my station in life. I still want to have that freedom and not be boxed in."

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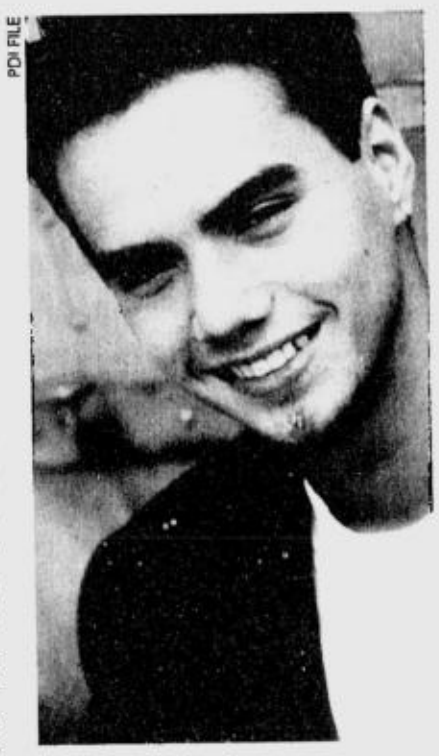


**Give it a try: Publicity shot, circa 1997**

For one thing, he can't separate his being a musician from his being an actor. "I can't imagine being one or the other, although my music is more personal—that's something I do when I want to do it, to express myself more honestly. As an actor, somebody writes the role for you. I like to think I'm a little bit of both."

Generally, though, TJ doesn't like to analyze himself, "or I would go crazy. I like being alone, though; I can do alone. My friends and I don't really hang out every weekend, as they have their own lives. But it's better, because when we see each other, there's a lot more to talk about, and you don't miss a beat."

### Butterflies in the stomach

Alone means being at home, playing the guitar, reading, surfing the Net, and writing his own songs. That means the "heavier" rock stuff for Mofo, which performs regularly at band haunts like saGuijo, and other songs for the more acoustic duo Heavy Traffic.

But just as he remains an actor who doesn't like being watched, TJ is one musician who's nervous before every gig. "I still get butterflies in my stomach. And I don't like watching myself in the soap." He doesn't like to dwell on the fact that "*Gulong*" is seen daily by millions of Filipinos nationwide and abroad. "I still can't comprehend the ramifications of the thing!"

Don't get him wrong, though. TJ is not feigning humility, and he knows what he's blessed—or is it burdened?—with. "I auditioned for this role along with 10 to 12 other guys who were good, so I would like to think I got the job because they thought I fit the role, and they believed in my ability to act. But yes, the business is very physical. Yes, I have been doing commercials, and I won't act as if I didn't know what they were talking about. But I don't really talk about it because I still don't know how to react. I think it's crazy, the lengths some people go to, constantly looking in the mirror."

When people swoon to his face, TJ says, "I used to just shut up, but my parents told me to just say thank you. I do go to the gym more now, though, because I'm *dyahe* (embarrassed) to take my shirt off. I'm more conscious of my body because I'm not really buff as hell." He used to play football, and has the scar from a broken kneecap to prove it, and has been training in mixed martial arts for some 13 years now. So you can beat someone up, we suggest. "I can defend myself if I have to," he clarifies.

### Well-grounded

Not that he has to defend himself against fans, who like to say hi and call him Carding. "I've never been mobbed," TJ reveals. Maybe he hasn't been to real "*Gulong*" country, we suggest, and he pauses, stumped. "I don't know where that is. Show me so I can make a special trip!"

It's not hard to stay real, TJ says, because he's no longer that young and impressionable, and he had a life before this one. "I didn't grow up in this, so I think it's easier for me to just be grounded. I'm not saying that people who grow up in the business are different, though. I've met some really big stars who are so well-grounded, although there are also instances when they aren't. It's personal; it's a decision you make. It's not like you don't have a choice. If you're going to act like a friggin' diva, it's because you want to."

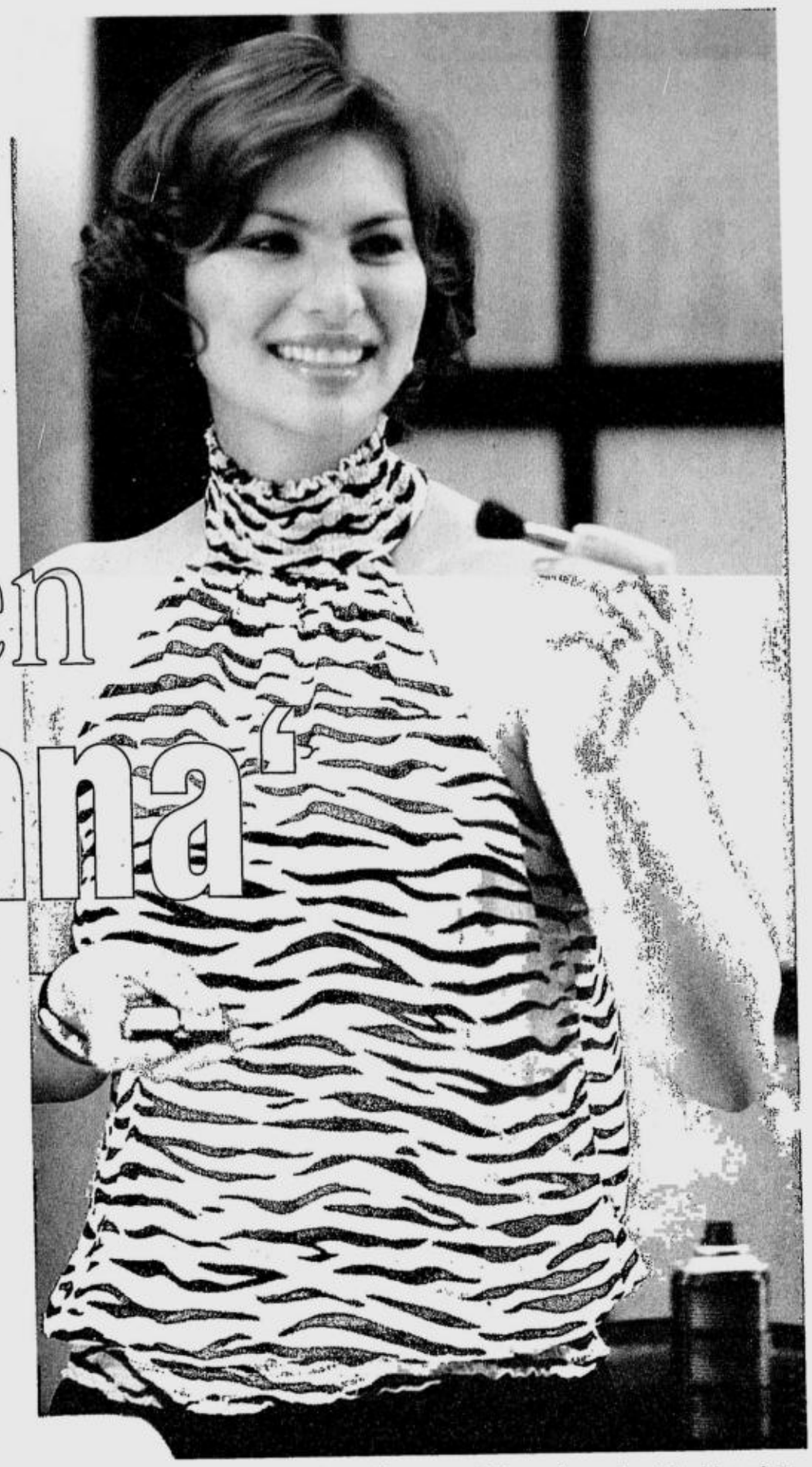
A proud uncle to his siblings' children, TJ does want his own kids some day. "I used to want it a lot before, but I'm not so eager anymore. Too many disappointments and expectations," he says cryptically. "If it comes, it comes. Now I just take things a day at a time." No, he's not in a relationship right now, he says with a puzzling smile. "But I hope I make a good dad one day."

It's still gray when we step out to the pool, but TJ doesn't mind the rain in his eyes, and even deadpans about his own brooding image. "The sky is commiserating with me," he says wryly. He furrows his brows for the camera, but for TJ Trinidad, it looks like the weather's just fine. Q

**He's doing the job, but TJ still wants his freedom**

*by Joy Rojas*
*photographs by Romy Homillada*

# She teaches people how to look classy, but this model beauty queen claims she's still a 'probinsyana' at heart



**HEN you have six jobs, are married to a fashion and celebrity photographer known for his fiery disposition, and are the mother of a 5-year-old boy, the last thing you expect is to look as pretty and as put-together as Abbygale Arenas De Leon. Striding through the Emphasis Salon in Rockwell, curls bouncing in the breeze and not a blemish on her creamy complexion, she is hardly what you would call a harried housewife and working mom.**

**But Abby, who juggles several jobs as a sought-after makeup artist (for Emphasis Salon and Lancome) and image consultant (for Wacoal, Philippine Airlines, The Belo Medical Group and Mind Broker), is simply walking the talk. "It's not a priority, it's a necessity," she says of her eternal poise and impeccable dress and makeup sense. "But I also think it's a woman's responsibility to her own self to carry herself well."**

That goes for everybody. In a world where people are judged according to their appearance, Abby says her role is to teach clients—from company CEOS and celebrities to office rank-and-file and department store promo girls—the art of properly presenting themselves. "Everybody has this," she says pointing to her temple, "so your edge over others is the effort you put into yourself. And it doesn't have to be tons and tons of makeup or a brand new wardrobe. It starts with visual poise, how you walk and talk, and how you deal with people. Total packaging."

### Metamorphosis

At 31, Abby's "total packaging" was the result of a years-in-the-making metamorphosis. Credit for her expertise in image enhancement goes to Conchitina Sevilla Bernando's "Complete Woman," a book she picked up while at National Book Store nine years ago. "I've never met her but I know her book inside and out," says Abby. "It's my bible." Her ability to comfortably address huge crowds, meanwhile, comes from her two-month "apprenticeship" with TV personality and motivational speaker Anthony Pangilinan. "He was very nice," says Abby, who assisted Pangilinan during his seminars. "He'd give me breaks, like ask me to teach the audience for 10 minutes, how to walk and smile."

As for her makeup skills, Abby, who underwent a month-long course on professional beauty makeup in January 2005 at the Studio Makeup Academy in Hollywood, California, thanks stylist Jinky Ilusorio for giving her a crash course. "He'd put makeup on one half of my face then ask me to do what he just did on the other half," says Abby, who was then 17 and en route to represent the country in the 1992 Supermodel of the World pageant in Beverly Hills. "Then he put all the makeup he used on me in a scarf, tied it up and told me to take it with me to the States. He was so sweet." To this day, Abby employs the technique Ilusorio had taught her on her own students.

It was fashion show director Joey Espino who first saw the potential in this true-blue *probinsiyana* from Angeles, Pampanga, the eldest of four children born to an educator dad and a professional caregiver mom. Then 15 and a good enough swimmer to study for free throughout high school, Abby was nowhere near

**Abbygale Arenas De Leon doesn't miss a thing when it comes to bringing out the new and more poised you, but she'd rather keep her own simple, low-maintenance ways**

model material. Though thin and tall, she was also dark with *an-an* on her skin. Her hair was blonde on the tips and riddled with split ends due to the chlorine in the pool. She also wore big glasses and walked with a self-conscious stoop. "I was Olive Oyl," she says with a laugh.

Prominent cheekbones and huge eyes, however, spurred Espino to come back for her two years after she finished high school. By then, the 17-year-old was done with swimming. "I had put on some weight and was white again, so when Joey saw me, he said, '*Ay, batang* Carnation!'"

### Starry-eyed

Nevertheless, she cleaned up pretty well. In the summer of '92, Abby surprised family and friends by joining and winning the Philippines' search for Supermodel of the World. Although she didn't fare as well in the international competition, the starry-eyed 17-year-old was obviously bitten by the beauty pageant bug. "I told myself, 'I want to wear that Miss Philippines sash again because I know I can do better.'"

Five years later, Abby did don the Miss Philippines sash again, this time as the country's bet in the 1997 Miss Universe beauty pageant in Miami, Florida. No, she didn't win either, but she certainly did the country proud: At .01 point shy of landing a spot in the Top 10, she flew home with the Most Photogenic award.

For Abby, however, bringing her parents along for the trip proved to be her greatest victory. "For years, my dad would go to the US Embassy to apply for a visa so he could visit his mom but he was always denied," says Abby, who used to tag along with him. "So when I was preparing to go to the US, I marched to the Embassy with my parents and said, 'I'm going to the Miss Universe (contest) and I'm taking my parents with me!' And they were like, 'Okay, sure!' and they stamped our visas. My mother, who didn't understand what was going on, kept whispering, '*Ano daw? Ano daw?*' (What did they say?) Now that was my winning moment."

In truth, Abby was actually relieved she didn't bag the crown. "In love *ako sa* boyfriend *ko*," she giggles of photographer Jun de Leon, whom she met when they worked on a fashion shoot in Dubai in October 1996. She was 21. He was 43.

### Like a clown

Age, however, was the least of everyone's worries. Divorced in 1986, De Leon fathered seven children from various women and had a history with drugs. "*Ingat ka*," warned her friends. "Two months!" threatened another. Abby's best friend, fellow model and makeup artist Lala Flores, shed a tear when Abby excitedly announced who her new boyfriend was. But Abby, who married De Leon in a quiet ceremony in Dubai in August 1998, describes him "as different from what I had heard. I had to see it for myself."

Indeed, few people know that De Leon is close to his kids, a quality that the family-oriented Abby found very attractive. "He's like a clown!" she assures with a laugh. "He's like a baby." While one would think it was she who had mellowed him, Abby insists that De Leon had already mellowed when he entered her life. "He's so passionate about his job, he'll be in a shoot an hour and a half to two hours ahead of schedule," she says in reference to his temper. "That's why he gets very upset when people come late or unprepared. He knows his job so he expects others to know theirs too." Together with their 5-year-old son Ijah (an Old Testament name meaning "God seeks"), the couple likes hanging out in the mall whenever their busy schedules permit.

### Cowboy

And speaking of busy schedules, Abby's hectic weeks still allow her to go to the grocery and wet market before heading home. A good cook, she can whip up anything from pasta and sukiyaki to the *ginataang tilapia* with *talong* she served her family the night before her interview.

"I'm a cowboy!" swears Abby who laughs at the notion of being "high maintenance" but understands where it's coming from. "Maybe it's because they see me all dressed up in magazines. But I still love *itlog na pula* and *kamatis* (salted eggs with tomatoes) and I still clean the house and wash the plates. I'm still a *probinsiyana*."

Perhaps that's why people who have attended her lectures can't help but walk up to Abby and thank her for helping turn their lives around for the better. Minus the makeup and the fancy clothes, she is just like everybody else. "I get it a lot: Sometimes when I'm in church, someone will introduce herself as a student of mine from two, five, seven years back, and thank me for teaching her how to stand properly and walk with confidence. Each day, I think I'm able to touch someone's life," she says with a smile. "It's a blessing."

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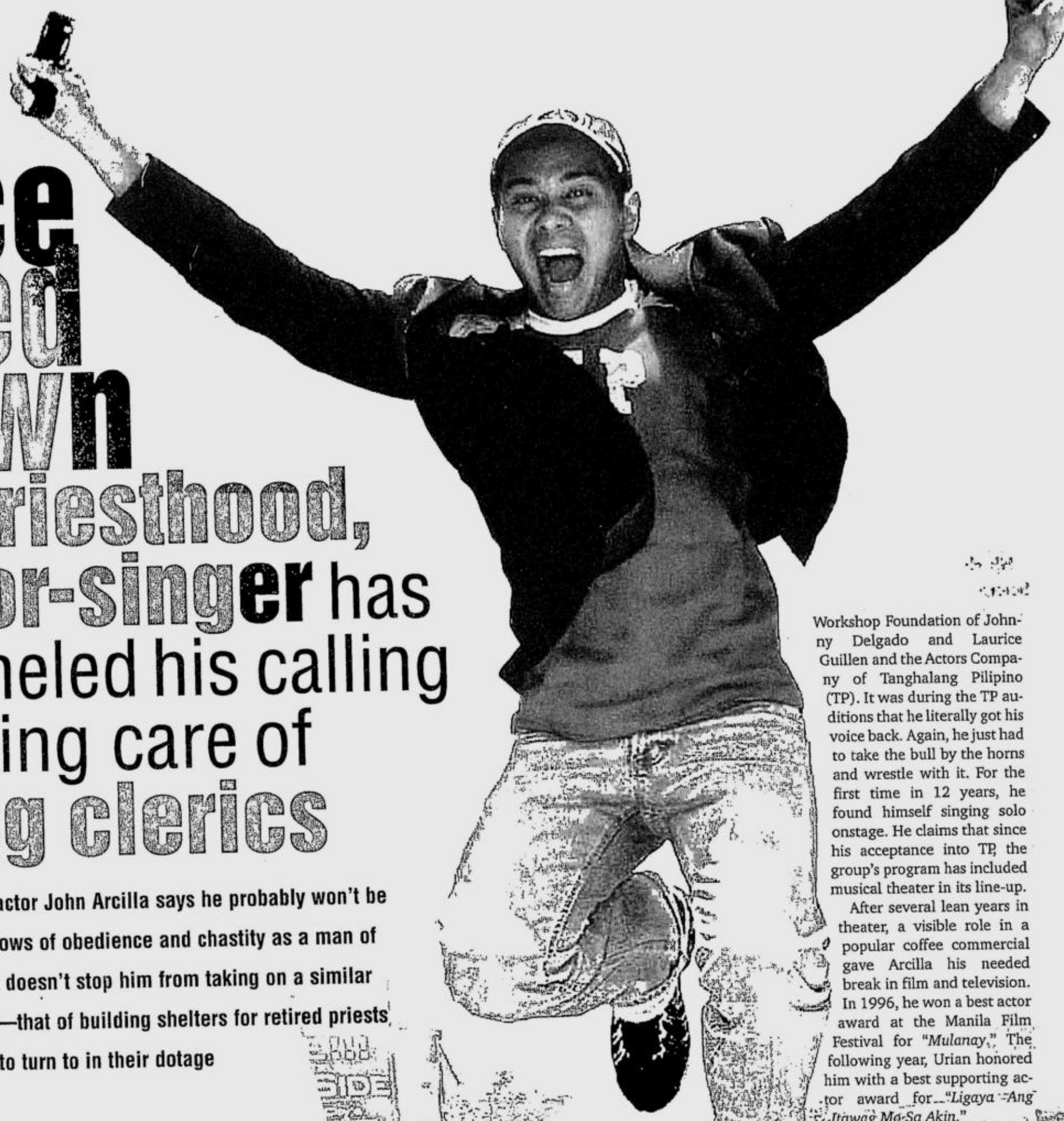
*For inquiries on makeup and image enhancement courses, please contact Abbygale Arenas De Leon at Emphasis Salon (tel. nos. 898-0818 and 898-0819) or through Helen Roncales, (0927) 243-8837.*

Theater Tales

*by Cora Llamas*

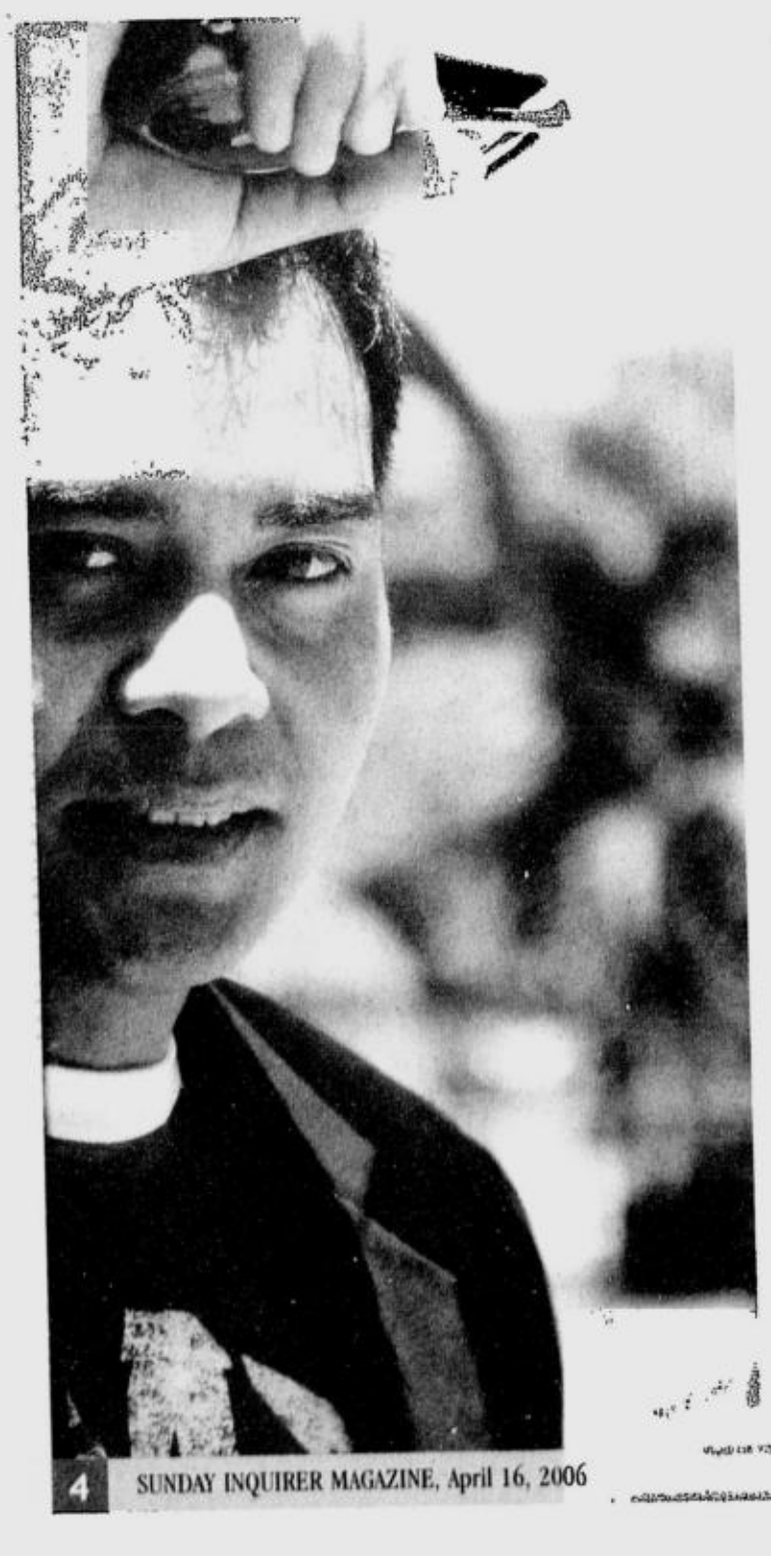
*photographs by August dela Cruz*

# Twice turned down for the priesthood, this actor-singer has channeled his calling to taking care of aging clerics



**Stage and movie actor John Arcilla says he probably won't be able to keep the vows of obedience and chastity as a man of the cloth. But that doesn't stop him from taking on a similar religious mission—that of building shelters for retired priests who have no one to turn to in their dotage**

**RELIGIOUS order's loss is the theater and music world's gain. Twice, award-winning actor-singer and musical-performer John Arcilla was turned down when he applied for the priesthood. When he got the call the third time a couple of years ago, he decided to pass on the chance, having found in his heart his true calling. Still, Arcilla retains a soft spot for men and women of the cloth. Singing for benefits and charities outside of Manila, he hopes to build a home for aging clerics one day.**



The inclination for the religious life started early in his childhood, says Arcilla. One of his aunts was a nun; his mother almost became one herself. As a teenager, he was the choir leader in church. The man who once played the cold-hearted Simon on stage and a dozen father roles in teleseryes concedes amiably, "I think the type of audience I have are people who are family-oriented and connected to church in some way."

The realization culminated in a repertoire of songs that chronicles his spiritual and artistic evolution, appropriately titled "Journeys." Arcilla weaves together eclectic threads that include Grace Nono's "*Ani*," Frank Sinatra's "Somewhere Beyond the Sea," Basil Valdez's "*Nais Ko*," Bayang Barrios' "*Bathala*," and a Broadway song or two.

"Our individual journeys may not be so different." Arcilla says of his album's theme. "We all experience failures and success, and express them differently."

### Baptism of fire

Sometimes, this pilgrimage's most important turning points can lead to more meaningful discoveries that can be crossed over through a wrenching crucible. Arcilla's "Journeys" repertoire was literally born in a baptism of fire. Two years ago, the monastery where his aunt the nun was assigned burned down in a P40-million fire, leaving no pillar standing save for the home where the elder nuns stayed.

"Everything was gone, including the chapel," Arcilla recalls sadly. "The nuns were depressed and I helped out by entertaining them. They just wanted me to sing and sing and sing."

Arcilla had undergone his own personal crucible years before. For 12 years, the boy who was always prodded to sing for family and church events, and who had won first prize in every major singing competition in his hometown, couldn't sing a note onstage after an incident left him "traumatized" when he was 14. "My voice was breaking because of adolescence," he looks back at one particular contest.. "We were down to the last five finalists. In my last song, I sang Rico Puno's '*Kapalaran*.'" Reaching the line "*Bakit kaya, ang buhay sa mundo?*," his voice cracked, and for the first time in his young life, he only won second place.

"I really cried," admits Arcilla. "For several years, I couldn't sing on stage alone. I could do duets, and became a guitarist and choir leader. That was how I became close to the parishes."

He also chose to become an actor. Without his music, drama became the avenue for the artist in him to break free. "I needed to express myself. My teacher gave me a declamation piece and I realized I could express myself through acting."

### Activist plays

His passion for drama soon saw him holding leadership roles in youth theater organizations like the Dulaang Kabataang Barangay and the Dulaang Kabataang Kristiyano. It crystallized in more cause-oriented theatrical shows when, as a Mass Communications student at St. Joseph's College in Quezon City, he headed the cultural arm of a militant youth organization. Between acting in and directing activist plays, he marched beside the late director Lino Brocka in anti-Marcos rallies.

Arcilla severed his relations with the leftist movement during the 1986 snap election when the militant groups decided to boycott it as a protest against Marcos. Such political differences later led him to quit the movement altogether.

Arcilla muses that it was this independent streak that probably cost him the priesthood. In college, he had applied and failed to get in twice. In retrospect, he realizes, "The religious' first and foremost vow is the vow of obedience. Perhaps my independent streak showed in my answers and they realized how I'd have a problem with the vow of obedience. " He pauses, then grins jokingly, "I'd probably have a similar problem when it comes to the vow of chastity, but I can do something about it."

### Taking the bull by the horns

With his politics behind him, Arcilla channeled his energies into acting, becoming one of the first members of the new theater groups that were coming out in the late '80s like the Actors Workshop Foundation of Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen and the Actors Company of Tanghalang Pilipino (TP). It was during the TP auditions that he literally got his voice back. Again, he just had to take the bull by the horns and wrestle with it. For the first time in 12 years, he found himself singing solo onstage. He claims that since his acceptance into TP, the group's program has included musical theater in its line-up.

After several lean years in theater, a visible role in a popular coffee commercial gave Arcilla his needed break in film and television. In 1996, he won a best actor award at the Manila Film Festival for "*Mulanay*." The following year, Urian honored him with a best supporting actor award for "*Ligaya Ang Itawag Mo Sa Akin*."

"*Anino*," which won raves in the Cannes Film Festival in 2000, was a form of anguished protest from Arcilla and his mentor-buddies Ronnie Lazaro and Raymond Red. Depressed over the rampant piracy and the overall decline in the quality of local movies, the three friends found themselves in deep depression. As Arcilla tells it, in that angst exchange, Red came up with the concept of a film short that explored the identity of a photographer as an artist and soul thief.

### Mending the soul

Arcilla's own soul needed mending that year. A huge investment had gone pfft after a friend had swindled him. Healing began when he accepted an invitation to sing for the renovation of a church and a seminary. "Some of my prayers were answered so I decided to pursue singing for religious causes."

With his footing back on more solid ground these days, Arcilla is now praying to be able to contribute to another form of rehabilitation. In his trips to many parishes, he saw how diocesan priests who are not bound to any religious order and are not allowed to own property, find themselves homeless upon retirement.

Not all of them are rich or have managed to save what little allowance they've had as priests, Arcilla observes. At their advanced age, most of their parents and siblings would have been dead, he adds.

"If I can manage to save some money, I'd like to put up a home for aging priests who have no one to care for them. At the same time, it would be open to foreigners for continuous funding. Not everything will be free. I wish some institution can help me with this. I'm willing to do my share through concerts and musicals. That would be my main leverage." Q

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*John Arcilla performs his next "Journeys" show on April 21 at the Lou-Is Resort and Restaurant, Balanga City, Bataan for the benefit of the Benedictine Nuns of Eucharistic King. Call (047) 791-4980, 0920-927-4528 and 0917-532-9863.*

People of the Faith

*by An Mercado-Alcantara*
*photographs by Ryan Lim*

# This late-night DJ wears a habit

**Taking God's word to today's information jungle, Sr. Eppie Brasil and her band of sisters bring contemplative prayer to the nerve-wracking din of AM radio**

**THE HOUR IS late. Just a year before, they would have been snug in bed at this hour, cloistered off from the neon rush of Manila nights, forbidden from venturing out into the seamy streets of the city at almost midnight. Yet tonight, five nuns step out of their convent, pile into a car, and drive past the girly joints of Quezon Blvd. to get to the radio station where they are to be deejays for the night.**

There is much about them that is old world—ankle-length beige and black habits, long-sleeved, double-layered, head covered, no waistline. Yet, there is so much more about them that is so very now. In their deep pockets, some of them carry not just one but two cell phones each. In the car, the banter is lively and geeky—a lot of cyber talk, software speak, and text messaging (between them, they send out some 12,000 text messages a day!).

In the radio station, they don headphones over their veils, navigate the technical switches with ease even as they mindfully light a prayer candle in the booth and strike a Zen gong to start their broadcast. At every moment, they move comfortably from modern to ancient, conservative to liberal, religious to digital, because, where others have put a clear divide, they see no split. Every moment is the only moment there is—a chance to renew and reinvent, to reach back and reach forward by keeping still and being sensitive to the stirrings of the Spirit.

### Consecrated life

"This is a new way of consecrated life," explains Sr. Eppie Brasil OP, the tall nun who leads this band of sisters. They are the Dominican Sisters of the Regina Rosarii and, although they have been nuns for some 20 to 30 years, their congregation is only 10 months old. They are a breakaway group, so to speak, a group of five who left the well-established and highly-regarded Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary to heed what Pope John Paul II recognized as the call to a new "springtime in consecrated life." It is a call to discover where the gifts of the times are and to recreate these into channels of prayer.

Tonight, they are sharing the contemplative life of stillness and silence through the nerve-wracking din of AM radio. They are accepting prayer petitions through text messages that come from as far up north as Cagayan Valley to way down south in Bicol. They are so cheerful and prayerful as they go about their show, so busy and yet so still, it may as well indeed be spring.

For Sr. Eppie, who is the founder of this young congregation, the discernment that brought them to this season of grace was painful. She was head of school for 20 years at their previous congregation and was General Counselor and Director of Formation before they left. She recalls being in Bologna on a trip to the tomb of St. Benedict, their patron saint, when the weight of the choice she was about to make hit her.

### Sunflowers and sheep

Passing through fields of sunflowers, she prayed that she be given a change of heart. "I was telling the Lord, 'I don't want to do this. I don't want to separate from my congregation. I love my sisters, they acknowledge me, they like me," Sr. Eppie recounts. "And I looked around me and it was springtime. I saw sunflowers and sheep, and I said: 'Who will provide for us? We don't even have money for this and that. Who will support us? Where will we find the money?' Then I heard a song in my heart: 'You'll never know just how much I love you.' I don't know why that particular song came to me. It's not even a song I sing often. But towards the end, this particular line hit me: 'You'll never know if you don't know now.'"

Instantly, she knew what she had to do. There was no turning back. She had consulted canon lawyers, she had given her best, it was time to go. Some 20 months later, with four other sisters with her, they returned their habits to their congregation and answered the stirring of their hearts.

Her decision was inspired by those before her who dared find a new way of serving God. "I was reading very much about Mother Teresa of Calcutta," Sr. Eppie narrates. "She also left her Loretto community—she was a teaching sister, and then founded her own community. And it was her own students who helped her in the beginning years."

### Unique skills

It is also Sr. Eppie's sisters who are helping her in these beginning years. "I believe that the Lord had already given us the necessary people to start something beautiful." Amazingly, the nuns who shared her vision also brought with them a unique set of skills necessary in founding a new congregation. Sr. Ding Sarah Ronda is a top-notch social worker, Sr. Violeta Diday Sobremisana is an accountant, Sr. Menchi Advincula is a medical doctor, and Sr. Matthew Brasil, who is also Sr. Eppie's blood sister, was once vicar for the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary in Hawaii and in Mindanao.

Sr. Eppie herself received extensive education in spirituality. She studied at the University of Notre Dame, received her Licentiate in Theology at the Institute of Consecrated Life in Madrid, then studied Dominican Spirituality in Rome. "All these opportunities were given to me maybe as preparation for something bigger," she says.

That search for something bigger, something more, is deeply etched in her life. As a teenager, the outgoing and fun-loving Teresita Brasil didn't think she would become Sr. Eppie someday. "I had a very normal teenage life. I joined gangs, I entered into relationships. Nobody would think I would join religious life before. I was exuberant. I was an extrovert. I loved parties." Yet, when she saw a community of nuns playing and singing, she sensed a joy she had not experienced before. It was her first call to something more. "It is amazing how God calls. When I was 16, I didn't understand what I was entering into by joining the convent. I only knew that the sisters were happy. I thought it was all singing, and dancing and playing" she recalls. "So, that was the first call. The second, and subsequent call, is the call to say yes to God in any time and any season, whether it is good or bad, whether you feel lonely or you're angry, and have all sorts of emotions. Everyday is a call that we say yes to."

### End of married life

Although her older sister Rosemarie, now Sr. Matthew, had already made the decision to be a nun a couple of years ahead of her, still many people were surprised when Sr. Eppie followed in her footsteps. But that was only the beginning of the amazing choices the Brasil family was to make in pursuit of a more meaningful consecrated life.

Five years after giving up both their daughters to the religious life, Amelia and Domingo Brasil, parents of Sr. Matthew and Sr. Eppie, decided to end their 25 years of married life, to join the Dominican community where their daughters belonged. With the blessing of the Pope, they entered the religious life and embraced the vows of obedience, poverty, and chastity. They became Brother Domingo Brasil and Sr. Marie Amelia Fernandez—no longer husband and wife nor mother and father, now simply and profoundly brother and sisters in Christ.

Sr. Eppie confesses that she had mixed feelings about their decision. "It was painful to see my childhood disappear—my dolls, my clothes, our home were given away." She was also scared that her parents, already set in their ways and used to living a comfortable life, would find the life of the religious too difficult. She still remembers the day they brought her beloved father to the Angelicum School of Jaro, where postulants of the Dominican fathers were accepted: "I was crying. I felt like an orphan." After letting her father go, she went back to her own convent and waited for her mother to don a postulant's habit and become now her sister in Christ.

### Peace and quiet

Central to Sr. Eppie's ministry today—and that of Regina Rosarii—is the teaching and practice of contemplative prayer. They draw from both the ancient Zen and Christian tradi-

To page 7

**Sisters on the air: Information technology is not a threat to spirituality, Sr. Eppie says**




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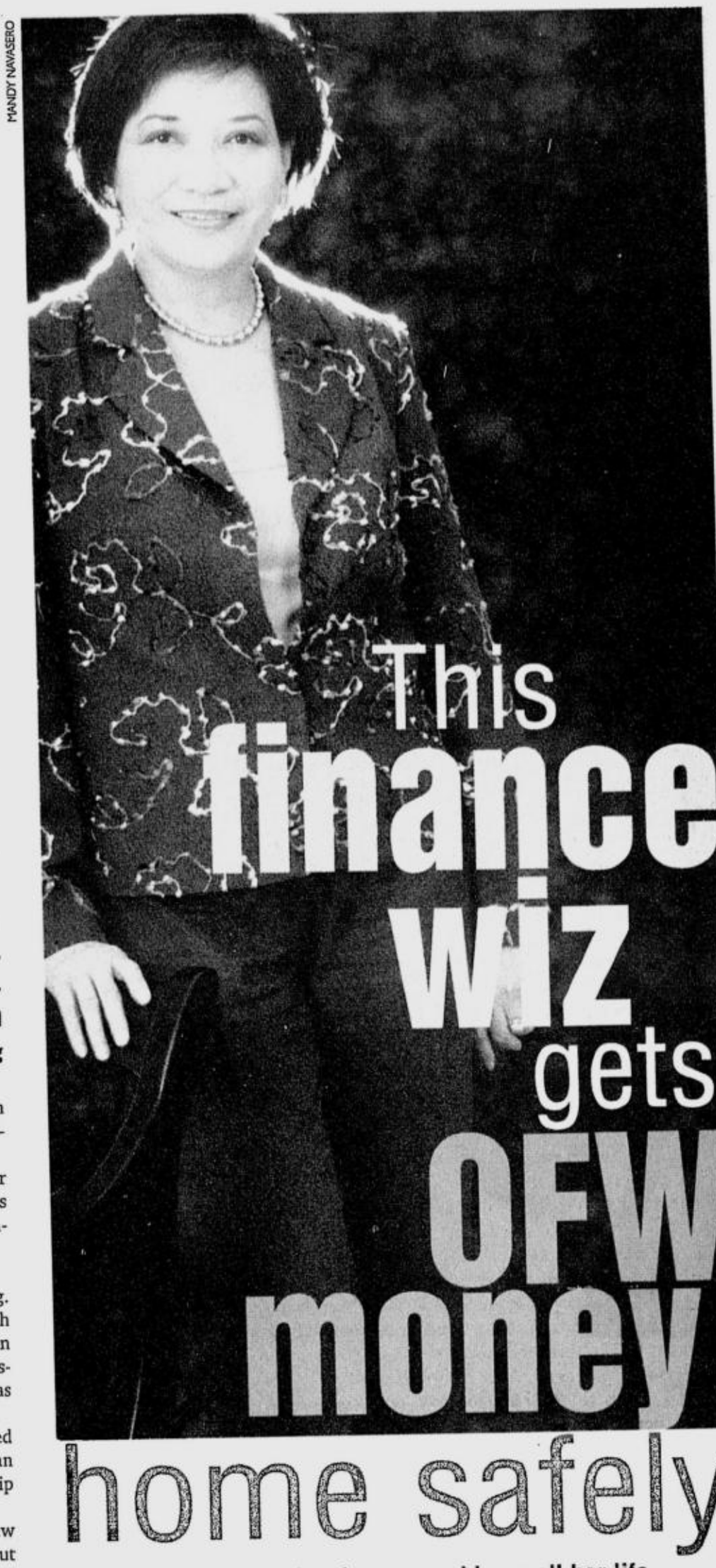


MANDY NAVASERO

# This finance wiz gets OFW money home safely

**Evelyn Singson has been an achiever all her life, but she's proudest of the company she built to help assure Filipinos abroad that their earnings are safe—and growing—back home**

**VELYN Reyes-Singson, president of eBusiness Financial Services Inc. and newly elected president of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), sometimes wonders if she ever had a childhood.**

**Singson recalls how she took charge of her four younger siblings at an early age because her father was sickly, and her mother was busy tending the family drugstore and pawnshop.**

**When her parents were out to work or at the hospital, she had to take care of the household. At other times, she helped out in the family business. "I was already in charge even then," Singson says.**

**She says that she has no regrets, however, for it made being responsible an indelible part of her system.**

**It was this trait, plus her capacity for hard work and business acumen, that enabled her to move up the elite circle of Philippine chief executive officers, and the first woman to be elected president of the prestigious MAP after starting her career as a lowly clerk-typist.**

That was her first job after graduating magna cum laude from Assumption College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce.

"I got the job because I was highly recommended for the position by former Transport and Communications undersecretary Josefina T. Lichauco, who was my teacher in Assumption," Singson says.

### Bad at typing

The funny part was, she was not any good at typing. She said she was so bad at it that she went through reams and reams of paper without producing a clean copy of a memo that her first boss, Lichauco's late husband, wanted her to produce. "Being a clerk typist was really not for me, so I had to improve myself."

This she did by passing the board exams for Certified Public Accountants and leaving her job after less than two months to move to the premier auditing firm SyCip Gorres & Velayo (SGV).

It was exciting at the start, she says, as there were few women at SGV, and the men tended to dote on them. But the excitement faded after a while, and Singson found her job increasingly monotonous. It was time to move on.

Fortunately, she was accepted at Northwestern University in Chicago for postgraduate studies, so she immediately packed her bags and went.

Little did she know that she would be the first Filipino, and only one of two Asians at that time, to be accepted into the Master in Business Administration program of the university.

She came home from Chicago not just with an MBA, and on the Dean's List at that, but also with a boyfriend, Jaime Singson, who would eventually become her husband. "He literally took care of me when I was there," Singson says. "I learned later that his friends from SGV called him up in the States and asked him to watch over this young, naïve girl."

The young and naïve girl who was Singson soon matured into one of the most dynamic executives in town, and she points to her stint at Bancom Development Corp. and the Bancom Group Inc. as a major turning point in her career.

Bancom was then considered the most influential financial services company under the tutelage of Sixto K. Roxas, and many of its alumni, including Singson, eventually became either senior executives or CEOs.

### Wholesome workplace

Singson started there as a senior analyst and was promoted every year. She left as senior vice president after 11 years.

"Bancom was a great place to work in, because people were young and eager to outdo each other," Singson says. "It was a very wholesome workplace."

It was during her time at Bancom that she was named one of The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service in 1981 because of her work in financial engineering.

She also considers herself a "taskmaster," who demands only the best from her people. "I would like to take credit for training them well," she says, "as I am really very demanding."

She earned a reputation for being exacting when it came to reports. She disdained sloppy work, and returned hastily prepared documents, sometimes with biting remarks scribbled on the margins. "I think they accepted it with humor because they knew that it was all just part of their training," Singson says with a laugh.

Happy as she was in Bancom, she left for Security Bank Corp., lured by the higher position of executive vice president, next only to the president.

Singson left when Security Bank changed owners and moved on to run companies, such as APC Group Inc., eBusiness Services Inc. and eBiz Financial Services Inc.

When the time came for her to choose to run just one company, she chose to run EBiz, the first direct agent of Western Union in Asia.

"I figured that rather than running cement or oil, I prefer the money business because I have always been in it."

### Creating livelihood

She and her team were able to grow the eBiz network from just three branches to 100 in just two years, creating livelihood and giving people, overseas Filipino workers in particular, an efficient means to send home their remittances. The company has also helped OFWs take better care of their money by introducing them to the world of mutual funds—a pool of money gathered from small investors that are invested in stocks, bonds, treasury bills, and commercial papers issued by corporations.

Singson considers it part of eBiz's mission to help OFWs manage their finances better. "It is not right when Filipinos, who leave their country, family and friends to work in foreign countries to provide their families a secure and better future, are oftentimes the victims of investment scams and exploitation," Singson says. "After sacrificing many years working in strange lands, their savings are wiped out as they fall prey to spurious investments or unwise purchases." OFWs tend to enter into long term financial commitments without considering the stability of their income, the term of their contracts, or their competence to manage a business. "Many businesses benefit from OFW remittances, so they must help them and their beneficiaries achieve the goals they went abroad for. Budgeting, financial planning, and investment decision-making are among the best skills we can teach them."

### Rubbed the wrong way

Singson can become so passionate about her work, she has been known to rub other people the wrong way, such as during the much-publicized corporate infighting at Asian Hospital Inc.

Singson was the driving force behind the establishment of Asian Hospital Inc., and she got foreign investors to bankroll her idea.

But due to disagreements with other shareholders, some of the original investors pulled out, while some sold their shares at less than their ideal price when the new Thai investors came in.

Singson, meanwhile, failed to keep her post as chairman because she did not hold enough shares to keep the position.

"I became too eager to get the project done that perhaps I stepped on some toes," she admits. "My only regret is that if this power struggle did not happen, the shareholders would have gotten more with the entry of the Thai group."

One good thing that came out of the Asian Hospital conflict, however, was that it upgraded hospital care in the Philippines. She came out of that battle bruised, but not beaten, with her reputation very much intact.

It was that reputation and her passion for seeing projects through that got her the nod of the members of the MAP to become its president for the year. As in everything she does, she's going into it heart and soul. "I believe that when you take on a responsibility, it is assumed that you are dedicated and passionate about it."

### Running a household

Inevitably, that passion extends to her home."If you can run a company, you can definitely run a household," Singson says.

Meanwhile, her husband, Jaime, is busy with the consulting company he formed with other retired partners of SGV. He also spends a lot of time perfecting his golf game.

"I guess he sometimes wonders what it would be like if his wife just stayed at home. But he knows I would not be happy if I did," she says.

That doesn't keep her from being a doting mother to a family of achievers, and a new grandmother to boot. Marc, 35, works in finance; Carlo, 34, works for the Hong Kong office of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and is married to Celina Gutierrez, a senior stewardess at Cathay Pacific, and they are parents to one-year-old Colin. Jaime, 29, works with an international consulting firm, Diamond Clusters Inc. (DCI). Melissa, 22, is graduating this June with a liberal arts degree, major in History of Art from Stanford University.

She has been working since she was 19 years old, Singson says, but she has managed to balance motherhood and career, with a bit of help from her folks, tutors and household help. "I moved to Bancom in 1969 because I planned to get married and start a family," she says. "It was a job I wanted to be committed to for a long time. Bancom was a demanding job, and my two sons were growing up at the time, but my parents, who lived nearby, helped me take care of them. Our kids grew up fine, in spite of our full-time careers."

Indeed, despite all her achievements in the corporate world, Singson declares that her priority has always been her family. Raising a happy family has been her greatest achievement, she says proudly.

**Family values: (Front row) Jaime, daughter Melissa and Evelyn Singson; (back row) Marc, Jaime, Celina with Colin, and Carlo**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Solid Places

*by Cecille Tuble, RC*

# The lesson of Easter

*For memory to be a Christian act, a true Easter gift, it must be willing to "make peace with pain." That is, we must not live our lives in deep denial, running away from what is painful, frustrating, fearful or just plain boring*

**Easter always reminds me of Dolly, who was born on an Easter Sunday some 60 odd years ago. Fittingly, she taught me two life-lessons that speak so much of Easter. Typical of God, too, to choose such an unlikely teacher as Dolly.**

You see, Dolly suffers from schizophrenia, that mental illness that ravages the brain and causes the mind to lose its ability to integrate thought, emotion and behavior. It is probably the most devastating form of psychosis. Dolly, diagnosed since the mid '80s, has spent nearly half her life under psychiatric care. She doesn't fit our stereotyped images of the "*taong grasa*" (half-crazed vagrants) or even that of the iconic Sisa. She is always neat and clean, but one can sense the extraordinary effort to maintain this tidiness. She does it not out of vanity, but out of sheer survival, for she is perpetually in danger of unraveling.

I have known Dolly for more than 10 years and am familiar with the hardship and pain of her past. I have been a witness to both her psychotic episodes and her unrelenting struggle not to give up. The last time we met, more than eight years ago, I had a very rare glimpse of the real Dolly. It seemed that the disease had loosened its grip a little, albeit momentarily ("Drugs, Sister, thanks be to drugs," Dolly joked). Her eyes didn't have their perennial glazed or overly bright look, and one could see in their unusual clarity a depth of loneliness, a rare sorrow. Dolly had found, for a short while, a foothold in reality.

She was quiet for some time, and when she spoke it was with uncharacteristic calmness and melancholy. "I have only one prayer, Sister, only one," Dolly slowly said. "I ask God that when I am lost and crazy ("*nawawala sa sarili*"), He will not let me hurt others or kill myself. Even when I forget myself, He will not forget, will He?" "He will never forget you, Dolly, even when you forget," I answered empathically. "Ah, then I can hope." And Dolly smiled. Not her usual crazy grin or frozen, blank stare. It was the most radiant smile I have ever seen, embracing both the sorrow of her loss of control, and her quiet, joyful gratitude for God's loving constancy.

And this was my first Easter lesson from Dolly: to remember. We cannot know just how precious our memories are, until we witness the struggle of people who, because of disease, suffer from memory loss, or worse, from a disintegration of the self so that memory, fantasy and reality get all mixed up in a terrifying, chaotic soup. Relatively sane and healthy as we are, we already struggle to find our solid places. What more for those of us who will have to make do with a fleeting, tenuous foothold?

But for memory to be a Christian act, a true Easter gift, it must be willing to "make peace with pain." That is, we must not live our lives in deep denial, running away from what is painful, frustrating, fearful or just plain boring. With our precious capacity to remember, we must be willing to pass through what Elizabeth Lesser calls "our long loneliness": a felt naming, a necessary grieving for our brokenness. Only thus can we be healed and made whole. This is the paradox borne of gospel truth: that indeed the seed must first die, the hollowing take place, the cross embraced, so that new life may come. Only thus can we find that radiant joy that is the grace of Easter.

For with the felt, courageous remembering comes hope—the second life lesson that Dolly gave. True hope is not our usual garden-variety optimism, based on our own abilities or knowledge or experience. It is not even that positive-thinking self-affirmation that "things could not get any worse than this." Rather, it is hope that could only come with the profound experience of God's irrevocable love.

How is this possible? Memory, as that famous spiritual adage points out, is "the sacrament of God's presence in our life." The central mystery of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection which we Christians celebrate every Holy Week, reminds us that God has never left us to suffer alone. He is truly Emmanuel—God-with-us. In the deepest, darkest places of our lives, in our own passovers, we discover that there is no sorrow too deep, no suffering too hidden, no joy or longing too small, that God cannot touch with His love. That love saves us, transforms us, gives us new life. That, indeed, is cause for great rejoicing.

Thus, to "enter into the joy of our Risen Lord" is not a blithe disregard of anything unpleasant in our lives, nor to indulge in mind-numbing, autistic escapism. Rather, it is to live life with hope-filled joy, even as we accept its sorrows. It is to root out evil in our lives, and to stretch our hearts God-wards. It means to reach out to one another with compassion, and to embrace our lovely, broken world.

*Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.*
*For His steadfast love endures forever.*
*(Psalm 118)*

A blessed Easter to all.

Pinoy Nga!

*by Jess Abrera*

**Easter Eggs**

## This ...*from page 4*

tions to bring people into silent prayer. "This is what people need now," she explains. "We talk to government workers, office workers, the very poor and we find out that what they need most is peace and quiet." And this is what the Regina Rosarii Center for Contemplative Prayer provides right at the center of the city. Every week, people from all walks of life come to pray at the center in Scout Rallos, Quezon City.

Sr. Eppie also sends out reflection points for meditation through text messaging. The Reginarosa Text Ministry now has 12,000 subscribers (enter reginarosa and send to 2213). "People have come to me to say, 'You helped me when I was desperate, when I wanted to take my life, because you sent a text message,'" she shares. "And yet, all I do is let my thumbs do the work. I don't plan what to say. The words go straight to my thumbs and out to the subscribers. That's how God works."

### Springtime of spirituality

The radio program they host brings contemplative prayer into the airwaves, providing weekly access to those who simply want to quiet down. "Regina Rosarii Reaching Out" is an hour of radio broadcast with Sunday Gospel Commentary, short sacred song for healing and guided meditation aired on DZRV, Radio Veritas, 846 every Saturday at 10 to 11 p.m. They are block timers on Radio Veritas and are able to pay for the airtime only through donations. For a couple of weeks early this year, they had to go off the air because they could not pay for the airtime, yet the sisters put their trust in Providence. "The money is still invisible," says one of the sisters. "Soon it will appear." And sure enough, through the generosity of listeners and those who have been touched by their prayers, they have resumed broadcast.

The new springtime of spirituality is happening in the jungle of technology. Sr. Eppie sees this as a time of great renewal. Information technology is not a threat to quiet prayer, it is the means to bring more people into contemplation by providing quick and easy access. Toward the end of the night's radio program, Sr. Matthew speaks for the Regina Rosarii sisters by saying: "I believe that the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of the Living God, the new wine, the new water will always find new wineskins and new forms and new structures for every generation, every culture, even continent. Christ invites you to come to his table and receive the gift of life. Come and taste the new wine."

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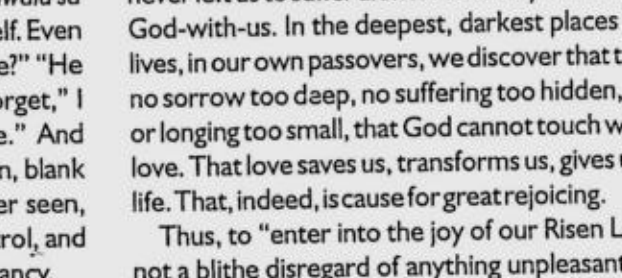
*Support the radio program "Regina Rosarii Reaching Out" by making donations to the Dominican Sisters of Regina Rosarii. Simply make a deposit to: BPI Savings Account No: 4953-0497-38. You may also come to the Center for Contemplative Prayer for prayer seminars or simply just for space to quiet down. Visit them at 70 Scout Fernandez, Quezon City.*


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE
Sunday, April 16, 2006




Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

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| Channel | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM | 12:00AM |
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| ABC 5 | | Ringside TV | | PBA | | | | | Goin' Bulilit | Rated K | TV Patrol World | Shall We Dance? Sharon | Dance Fever Pinoy Big Brother |
| ABS-CBN 2 | Your Song | SCQ Kids | | | The Buzz | | | | | | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6) | Sunday Family Cinema CSI NY (Season 2) |
| AXN | | Enough | | | | Samsung Sports World | WRC 2006: France | | Gamerama (Season 11) | Ultimate Gumless World Records | Sports Disaster TV | | CSI: Miami (Season 5) |
| Cartoon Network | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | | | | Kaolin Showdown | Teen Titans | Justice League Unlimited | The Batman | Megas XLR | Courage The Cowardly Dog | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Battle B-Daman | The Grimsizers |
| Cinema One | | | | | | | Now That I Have You | | | | April Snow | | Ang Bang Meron Ka? |
| Cinemax | King Ralph (7:35 PM) | | | | Jawbreaker (4:20 PM) | | Regine Velasquez (5:30 PM) | | | Gargoyle's Revenge | | Above The Law | 2 Fast 2 Furious |
| CNN | | World News | Revealed | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | World News | World Sport | World News | CNN Business Traveller | World News | World Sport | Talk Asia |
| Crime/Suspense/Detective | | Law & Order | | Law & Order: Criminal Content | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit | What Should You Do? | | The Closer | | Law & Order: Criminal Content | | Surface/Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice |
| Discovery Channel | | Beyond Tomorrow | | American Chopper | | The Greatest Ever | Mythbusters | | Hour Asia | | Hour China | | Battleground: The Art Of War |
| Disney Channel | Lizzie Mcguire | Totally Spies: Double Episodes | | Brandy & Mr. Whiskers | Lilo & Stitch | Buzz on Maggie | Mr. Bean | Phil Of The Future | Suite Life Of Zack And Cody | That's So Raven | Wonderful World Of Disney | | Mr. Bean |
| ESPN | | 2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship | | | | LPGA Golf: Jamaica Classic 3rd Round | | | | Classic Boxing: J. Dinapoli- Early Years | Classic Boxing: Bantamweight Title Fights mid 30's | | Major League Baseball: Sox Hosts @ Dodgers |
| ETC | | American Dreams 2 | | Rated Ohl 4 | Insider Weekend | Saturday Night Live | | One Tree Hill 3 | | America's Next Top Model 4 | Queer Eye For Straight Guy | | Project Runway |
| EWTN | Defending Life | Angelus (1:15 PM) | The Donut Man | Adventures In Odyssey | Rosary With Mother America | Octavia Dies | Rome Reports | EWTN Global Showcase | | Onward Pilgrims | Sunday Mass Live | | |
| Fox News | | Beltway Boys | Fox News Watch | Fox Report Saturday | | Heartland With John Ratsch | | Big Story Weekend Edition | | Beltway Boys | Fox & Friends Sunday | | |
| GMA 7 | Gigstors | Love To Love | | S-Files | | | | Mulawogang Bakal | | Jologs | Mel & Joey | | All Star K |
| Hallmark Channel | | | Gentle Ben: Terror On The Mountain | | | Sun Parade (5:15 PM) | | | | Just Cause | Child Of Our Time 2002 | | Heart Of A Stranger |
| HBO | | Police Academy: Mission to Moscow | | | Tough Guys Don't Dance | | | | Escape From LA (6:20 PM) | | Now On The Big Screen In Asia | Anaconda | |
| Hero TV | Machine Robo-Rescue | Dear Boys | GPX Cyber Formula | Baki The Grappler | Zenki | Super Yoyo | Ragnarok | Musumet | The Slayers | Barom One | Babel II | Mars The Terminator | Hero TV Theatrex |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | EZ Shop | | Home Shopping Network | | Home Shopping Network | | Legacy Of Hero | | Pinoy Action Flix | |
| JackTV | Everybody Hate Chris | Arrested Development | Always Sunny In Philadelphia | Family Guy | Jack Yard | Afturbum | | Smackdown | | | | Jack In The Box | |
| Lifestyle Network | | Smart Solutions | Country Style | Your Private Island | Fine Living Special | | Barrfoot Contessa | Everyday Italian | Cup Of Joe With Mario | Food Network Special | E! Entertainment Special | Shattered Glass | |
| MTV Philippines | Handpicked Sandwich | Massive | MTV News | Get Hitch'd | Homecoming | Laguna Beach | | Pimp My Ride | | Punk'D | Made | Diary of Kanye & The Grammys | Fashionably Loud |
| MYX | Top Picks | Pinoy MYX Countdown | | | | Take 5 | MYX Bandanto | MYX News | | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Presents | MYX Hit Chart |
| National Geographic | | Terrorism Week | | | | Bait For The Kill | | When Natural Disasters Strike Back | | Seismic Seconds | Rough Trades | Megastructures | |
| NBN | | Ting ng Bayan (Sinling Lasing) | | | | | | Ting ng Bayan (Live) | | Congress in Action | | GSIS Member's Hour (Replay) | |
| Nickelodeon | Drake & Josh | SpongeBob SquarePants | Trollz | The Fairly Odd Parents | Calsonsaln | Avatar: The Last Airbender | Danny Phantom | Zoey 101 | Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide | Dark Oracle | Unfabulous | SpongeBob SquarePants | The Fairly Odd Parents |
| PBO | | | Return Of The Z | | | | Ang Pagbabalik Ni Pedro Penduko | | | | Ang Mala Kong Hoodlum | | Tunog Banda At Alamat |
| Qtv | | Joan Of Arcadia | | Kakaibo Star | | Bongga Ka Star | | Ang Pinaka... | | Pop Star Kids | | May Trabaho Ka! | |
| RPN 9 | | Golf Power | Fistorama | | Global Window | WWE Smackdown | | JAG | | Navy Nas | | Without A Trace | |
| SBN 21 | | | | Buhay Pinoy | | Sheperds Voice | | New Life | | | | Oras Ng Himala | |
| Solar Sports | | | WTA NASDAQ 100 Open Finals | | | | | GWS 15-2006 | NBA Jam | NBA Game: Kings @ Mavericks | | | |
| Sports Plus | | | | | | Rookie Manual | Slipstream | Bay Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge | | | | World's Greatest Auto Shows | |
| Star Movies | | The Ghost Of My Attitude | | | | Runaway Jury (4:50 PM) | | | | Ladkor 40 | | | |
| Star World | | Scrubs | 8 Simple Rules/ Married...With Children | North Shore | | Business Week Asia | Travel Asia | Smallville | | Malcolm In The Middle | The Simpsons | Oprah Winfrey Show | |
| Studio 23 | | | | | | Exposed | | | | Y Speak | | Joey | Living With Fran |

| Channel | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM | 12:00AM |
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# Toyota kicks-off Earth Day celebration

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES Corp (TMP) and the Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation Inc (TMPF) start the celebration of Earth Day with day-long activities on April 18, at the Toyota Special Economic Zone (TSEZ) in Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

Santa Rosa City Mayor Joey Catindig will lead the opening ceremonies at the City Plaza followed by a motorcade to the TSEZ featuring Toyota's Prius Hybrid Car and a Toyota LPG-fueled car, among others.

The celebration will continue at the Toyota Special Economic Zone to be graced by the presence of Department of Environment secretary Angelo Reyes, Philippine Economic Zone Authority director-general lawyer Lilia de Lima, Laguna Lake Development Authority general manager Casimiro Ynares III, together with TMP president Hiroshi Ito and TMPF president Dr. David Go.

Activities in the TSEZ include an Eco Plant Tour presenting the environment and community-friendly manufacturing processes of TMP and Toyota Autoparts Philippines (TAP), a recyclable collection event, and exhibits showcasing the community development programs of Toyota and of participating private and public organizations. Apart from TMP and TMPF, other main participants are TAP, TSEZ locators Tokai Rica Philippines, Hikari Seiko, and Aichi Forging, the Santa Rosa City Government, and 26 companies and NGOs.

"We are honored to have been invited by the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) to be the first to host the kick-off event of its annual celebration of Earth Day outside Metro Manila," said TMPF's Dr. Go. "This event gives Toyota and our partner organizations the opportunity to share with the public our community programs, especially our environmental protection projects."

The Earth Day celebration will be participated by groups from Santa Rosa Labor Management Council, the Save Silang Santa Rosa River Project, Phil. Association of Labor Management Councils, League of Corporate Foundations, Ecology Foundation, Metrobank Foundation, ABS-CBN Foundation, Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc, Personnel Management Association of the Phils, Philippine Recyclers Association, Ayala Foundation Inc, Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Laguna Labor Management Council, Santa Rosa City Business Club, and The Rotary Club of Santa Rosa.

# Community Innovations launches newest real estate development

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC (CII), an Ayala Land subsidiary recently launched its newest development, the Celadon Residences, in a glittering cocktail event last Feb. 3 at the ballroom of the Diamond Hotel. Hosted by eventologist Tim Yap, the event gathered the who's who in business, real estate and the Filipino Chinese Community.

CII president Bobby Dy revealed that the Celadon Residences is the first-ever development of its kind in the city of Manila. Reputed to be the biggest real estate venture in Manila, it is envisioned to bring new life to this part of the metropolis, and further boost the city's Urban Renewal Program.

An audio visual clip gave the guests a glimpse of what's in store for the future residents of Celadon Rresidences. Sultry chanteuse Verni Varga wowed the audience with her trademark soulful rendition of several choice ditties.

Celadon Residences San Lazaro is the first townhouse development that integrates the essence of suburban living with the ease and amenities of city life. Tucked away in the heart of old Manila, this 4.2 hectare master planned modern village is a mere 20 minutes from Binondo.

Designed to be an intimate, exclusive community, the project offers 200 Mediterranean-inspired townhouse units grouped into clusters. Buyers may choose from three types, with floor areas ranging from 168 to 204 square meters, depending on their needs. All townhouse unit types will have three bedrooms and pocket garden on the ground floor that will allow homeowners the rare chance to bring in a piece of the outdoors. The added option of a guest room/home office affords the residents more breathing space for fun and relaxation. It likewise allows young career enthusiasts to keep track of their business from the privacy of their haven in the city.

It is conveniently located along A.H. Lacson (formerly Gov. Forbes) in Sta. Cruz, Manila. With its centrally strategic location, Celadon Residences is accessible to the finest Chinese education institutions like Chang Kai Shek, UNO High Schook, St. Stephen's High School, Phil. Academy of Sakya, Phil. Cultural High School, Phil. Jin Nan Institute, as well as the country's oldest university, the university of Sto. Tomas. It is also within the vicinity of the Chinese General Hospital, and major malls like Robinson's Place Manila, SM Lazaro, and SM Manila.

For inquiries on owning a unit at Celadon Residences, call 888-000, email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph. You may also visit the Community Innovations sales office located along San Fernando st., Binondo, Manila.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that caters to urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyle and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.

A TOAST to success. Community Innovations top honchos and joint venture partners salute the recent successful launch of Celadon Residences at the Diamond Hotel. Shown are (from left): Jonathan Umal, project development head of CII; Patrick Reyno, MJCI director; Dan Abando, technical services head of CII; Jaime Ayala, president of Ayala Land; Mariza Santos-Tan, MCJI vice chair; lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr., MJCI chair and Bobby Dy - president of CII.

## HEALTH AND BEAUTY TIPS FROM CORY QUIRINO VIA SMART SMS

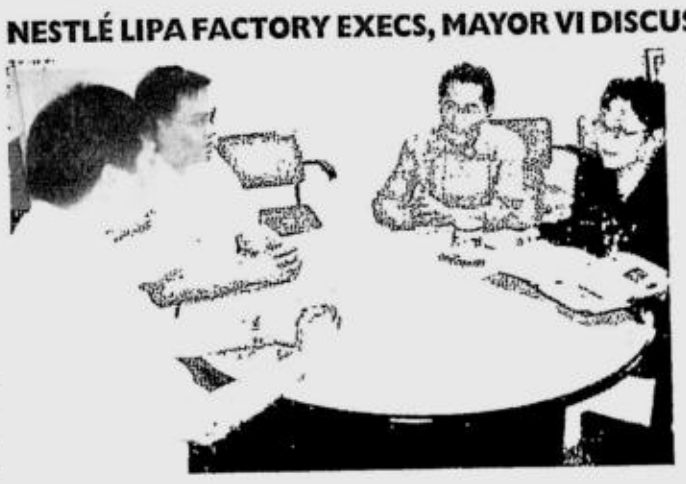
Smart Communications Inc (Smart) now offers TEXT CQ, which allows all of its subscribers to obtain health and beauty tips form the country's foremost beauty and wellness expert Cory Quirino. Quirino, a television celebrity, best-selling author of 'Forever Young', and an advocate of the wellness lifestyle has been promoting beauty and wellness for years in different shows like 'The Good Life' on Studio 23, 'Ma-beauty Po Naman' on DZMM radio and her column 'Inside Out' on the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Now, exclusive to Smart, subscribers simply must key in CQ ON and send to 2966 to receive tips that range from health, to beauty, and to proper diet and exercise. Subscribers can also send ASK CQ to 2966 to get answers from Quirino herself on specific concerns. Each text message costs P2.50. Photo shows Quirino with (from left) Global Wireless Connections marketing manager Mon Cayabyab, Smart value added services-content provisioning and management head Manuel V. Castillo and Smart value-added services usage head Manny M. Perez.

## TRY SMART 3G FOR FREE

Menardo Jimenez Jr., Smart's wireless consumer division head, receives a video call from Smart Network Services Division (NSD) head Rolando G. Peña (screen), who was in Barcelona, Spain attending the annual GSM Association Awards. The video call showed what Smart subscribers with third generation (3G) capable handsets can now start enjoying for free. The leading wireless services provider has opened its 3G network in selected key cities nationwide, making video calling, video streaming, high speed internet browsing and special 3G content downloads on its 3G network available on a free trial basis. 'This is no longer just a demonstration. Smart is the first to give our subscribers the service in selected 3G areas. All the others will just have to follow,' said Jimenez. Smart

is rolling out 3G to cover more areas nationwide. So far, Smart enjoys 3G presence in selected cities in Metro Manila and Cebu, and as far as Baguio in the north and Davao in the south. Smart 3G enhances the array of mobile services that Smart continues to offer its subscribers on its 2.5G network.

## NESTLÉ LIPA FACTORY EXECS, MAYOR VI DISCUSS COFFEE PROJECT



Nestlé Lipa factory HR head Froy Dimaculangan and Milo/Coffee production head Benhur Ignacio recently met with Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos to discuss the revival of the mayor's coffee bean plantation project for Lipa City. With Mayor Vi was City Administrator Martin Dijan. The Nestlé Lipa execs expressed the company's support for the mayor's project, acknowledging that Lipa has been known for its coffee since the Spanish era.

## BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK VALUES IT'S ELITE BROKERS CIRCLE

Not many banks have an exclusive club of top performers from its pool of accredited brokers. BPI Family Savings Bank maintains this exclusive club, dubbed as the Elite Brokers Circle, which is composed of the top brokers that are ranked according to the amount of successful housing loan referrals they bring in. One of the privileges the members of the Elite Brokers Circle enjoy is an exclusive lunch with BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso L. Salcedo, Jr. Referred to as the President's Treat, top brokers Josephine Gaston, Carolyn Untalan, Lita Valdez, and Olga Nagrampa enjoyed a sumptuous buffet lunch last recently at Circles Restaurant at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel located at Ayala Avenue. The valued brokers were likewise presented with gift items. Shown in photo (seated, from left): top brokers Lita Valdez, Olga Nagrampa, Josephine Gaston, BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso Salcedo, Jr., and Carolyn Untalan; (standing): AVP Ruel Magtoto and SVP Alberto Pascual.

## PLDT, GMA 7 INK BOOTH ADVERTISING CONTRACT

GMA 7 has just turned telebabad to adbabad. The country's leading television network recently inked an agreement with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) to place its ads on PLDT payphone booths. 'The GMA 7 network is indeed a 'kapuso' network because it values the personal experience offered by the payphone. This strategy of going straight to the individual on a massive scale is what we offer with Booth advertising via the PLDT payphone,' said Tina Z. Mariano, Smart public access group head. Under the agreement, GMA 7 will be displaying its advertising messages on the booths housing 2,327 payphones all over the country. The PLDT Payphone is managed by PLDT subsidiary and leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc (Smart), with Omni as its marketing arm. Photo shows (from left) GMA 7 sales director Marlon B. Mañaol, GMA 7 vice president for TV entertainment sales Leah A. Nuyda sign a partnership contract with Smart Communications Inc officials led by Tina Z. Mariano, head, Smart public access group and Tisha C. Quinitio, marketing supervisor.

## PACMAN MEETS MVP

The country's pride and joy, world-class boxer Manny Pacquiao recently paid a courtesy call to PLDT chair Manny V. Pangilinan in the latter's office in Makati. During the meeting, the two Mannys talked about the possible rematch with Erik 'El Terrible' Morales of Mexico, a forthcoming movie about the boxing champ's life, as well as possible endorsement of PLDT products and services, among others. Prior to the meeting, PLDT employee-fans warmly received the boxing idol who readily obliged by signing authographs, shaking hands, and posing for souvenir shots during the meet-and-greet session at the company's lobby.

## JOLLIBEE ADJUDGED ASIA'S BEST

Jollibee Foods Corp has been awarded 'Best at Consumer Goods' by London-based financial magazine Euromoney in its 10th annual poll of Asia's Best Managed Companies in the region. Jollibee bested other big multinational companies from Malaysia, Hongkong, Singapore, Thailand and Korea in the category. The award was given based on a survey of market analysts at leading banks and research institutes across Asia. Marcus Langston, Euromoney's director of publishing for Asia, is seen handing the award to Inez Reyes, Jollibee's VP for marketing, in a recent visit to the Jollibee corporate headquarters in Ortigas Center.

## MEGAWORLD HOLDS DOMESTIC ROADSHOW

Premier property developer Megaworld Corp kicked off last week the primary and secondary offering of its common shares with a domestic roadshow held at the Forbes Town Center in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. BDO Capital & Investment Corp is the sole domestic underwriter and bookrunner while UBS AG is the sole international underwriter and bookrunner for the offer. Megaworld's primary offering consists of 3.92 billion common shares comprising 3.5 billion new shares. The secondary offering consists of up to 423.17 million existing shares held by a US-based shareholder of Megaworld. Proceeds of the primary offer will be used for general corporate, capital and project expenditures for 2006, 2007. The domestic offer period will run from April 10 until April 18. Megaworld's current portfolio of five major projects comprises four townships, which include Eastwood City, Forbes Town Center, McKinley Hill and Newport City, and a residential condominium project at the Araneta Center. Present during the roadshow are (from left): MEG VP-corporate mgt. lawyer Monica Salomon; MEG FVP-finance and admin Lourdes Clemente; MEG EVP lawyer Cirilo Maniangit; MEG SVP and executive director Kingson U. Sian; BDO Capital EVP Eduardo Francisco; MEG chair and president Andrew Tan; MEG FVP-operations Antonio Tan; and MEG treasurer Francis Canuto.

■ BUSINESS / B1
2006 is turning point for RP economy, says Dutch banking giant

■ ACROSS / A17
MILF, MNLF start reunification talks

■ WORLD / A32
Hamas told: Adopt Arab peace initiative

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-4
LT hopes to bring home Daboy from the hospital this week

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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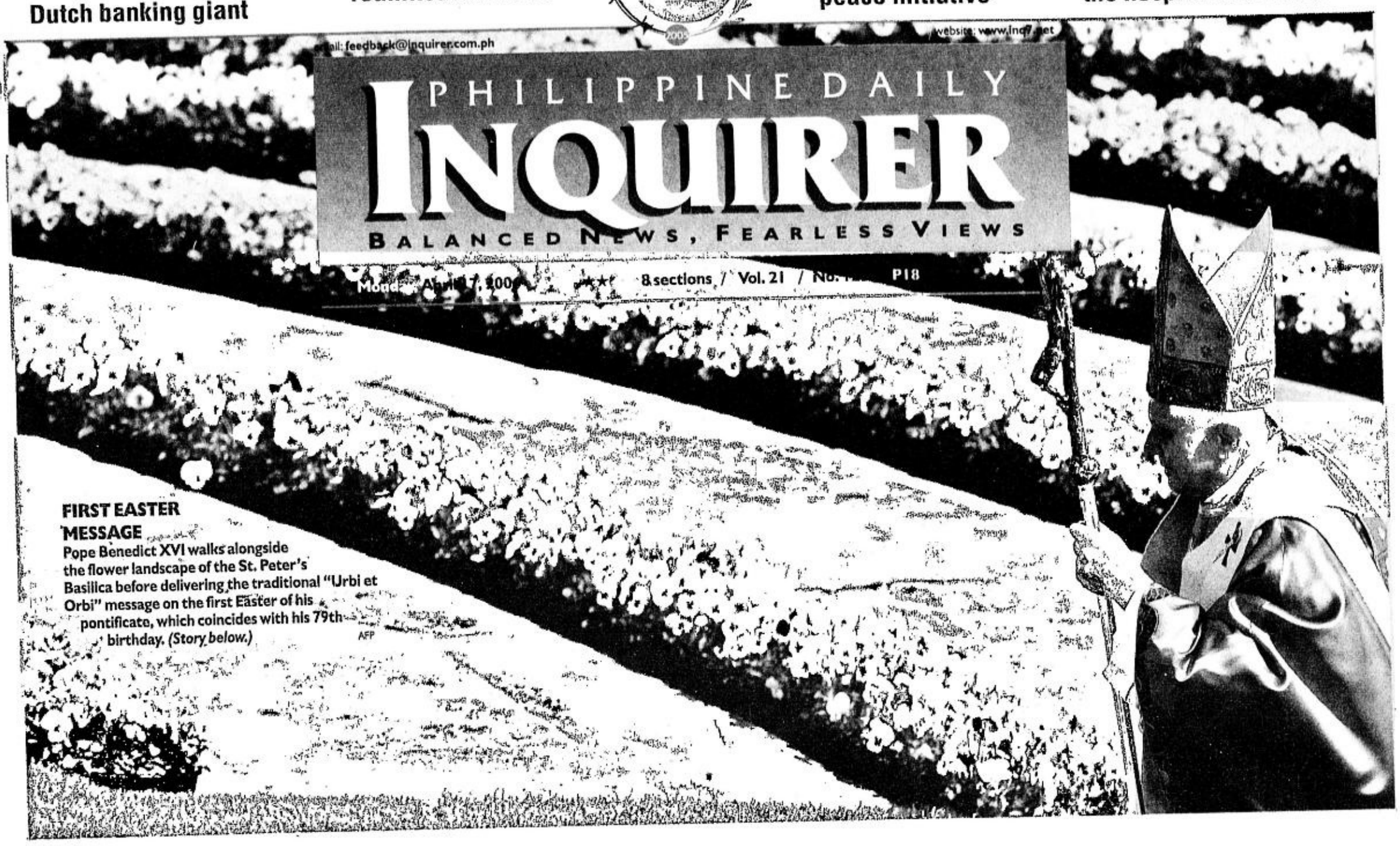
Monday, April 17, 2006 ★★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. [illegible] P18



**FIRST EASTER MESSAGE**
Pope Benedict XVI walks alongside the flower landscape of the St. Peter's Basilica before delivering the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" message on the first Easter of his pontificate, which coincides with his 79th birthday. *(Story below.)* AFP

# Crime victims shocked

## But GMA declaration pleases bishops, rights groups

By Luige A. del Puerto, Blanche S. Rivera and Juliet Labog-Javellana

PROTEST AND PRAISE GREETED PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's announced commutation of death sentences to life terms, with an anticrime advocate saying a "Black Easter message" had just been handed to victims and their kin.

"If it's a sweeping commutation, it's shocking and condemnable," said Dante Jimenez, founding chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, an organization whose members include survivors of heinous crimes.

"We appeal to [the President] not to proceed with this for political and religious consideration," Jimenez said, adding that it was no secret Ms Arroyo needed the support of groups opposed to the death penalty, such as the Catholic Church and the European community.

"The President gave the victims a Black Easter message with that announcement," he said in a text message.

Jimenez said the decision to commute the

CRIME/ A22

## New debate on death penalty up

By Michael Lim Ubac

A SPIRITED DEBATE IS EXPECTED in Congress with the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to commute the death sentences of 1,205 convicts to life imprisonment despite the existence of the Death Penalty Law (Republic Act No. 7659).

Administration allies in the House yesterday called on the President to categorically say if the decision announced in her Easter message released Saturday was now the new administration policy, so that appropriate measures could be promptly enacted.

Ms Arroyo had said she was "changing our policy on those who have been imposed the death penalty" and "reducing their penalty to life imprisonment."

In a phone interview, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the power to pardon convicts or commute their sentences was "a presidential prerogative."

But he said the policy shift followed the stance of the Catholic Church, which had been pressing for a stop to state-sanctioned executions.

"It's the prolife line of the Catholic Church. Maybe it's time for Congress to revisit the Death Penalty Law, if that is now the administration policy. This issue must again be debated to bring it out in the open," he said.

Nograles represents Davao City, which is known to favor capital punishment particularly for those involved in the trade in illegal drugs.

In a text message, Cebu Rep.

NEW DEBATE/ A23

## Skills, hope for young 'housemates'

By Julie S. Alipala and Dennis Jay Santos
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DIPOLOG CITY—AHMED, 14, IS just getting familiar with the alphabet and knowing how to count.

For many years, all he had done in the camp of the Abu Sayyaf was to guard the hostages seized by the notorious kidnapping group and count them, or to clean firearms.

Now, he is learning the alphabet through an educational video presentation "Sineskwela." He is likewise thrilled by baking and gardening.

Unlike Ahmed, Manuel comes from a prominent family. But like him, Manuel is learning new skills—hair styling and automotive repair—which he never did when he went to private school.

Both are children in conflict with the law (CICL) and they are among 59 "housemates" in the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Barangay Anastacio in Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte.

As of March, over 1,000 CICL have been undergoing rehabilitation in 11 centers run by the De-

SKILLS/ A23

**EASTER DIP**
Not minding the murky waters, hundreds of people, mostly children, swim in the Manila Bay in what has become their traditional closing of the Holy Week on Easter Sunday. RYAN LIM

## FBI agents nab Mancao in Florida

By Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER POLICE SENIOR SUPT. Cesar Mancao has been taken into FBI custody in Miami, Florida, in connection with the unprecedented spying scandal in the White House involving Filipinos, Philippine officials said yesterday.

"He was arrested by FBI agents as a material witness in the espionage case," said spokesperson Gilberto Asuque of the Department of Foreign Affairs, quoting a report from Consul General Cecilia Rebong.

Asuque dismissed earlier reports that Mancao had turned himself in voluntarily. He said Philippine diplomats were monitoring Mancao's situation to ensure that his rights as a Filipino citizen were respected.

FBI AGENTS/ A8

## Filipino Bible expert assails 'Da Vinci'

By Christian V. Esguerra

A FILIPINO BIBLICAL EXPERT IS at the forefront of the Catholic Church's efforts to keep the faith strong in the face of expected assaults that could follow the Philippine screening next month of the film version of the best-selling novel "The Da Vinci Code."

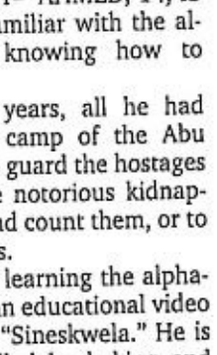
Fr. Regino Cortes, a professor of Sacred Scripture at the University of Santo Tomas, has published a book, "The Da Vinci Code: An Exegetical Review," seeking to rectify what he claims are apparent inaccuracies in the Dan Brown blockbuster.

The first to be published by a Filipino, the book joins a growing genre of Brown bashers spawned in the West. One of the materials is "The Da Vinci Hoax" of journalist Carl Olson and scholar Sandra Miesel, which was released recently in the Philippines by Jesuit Communications Inc.

Cortes, 64, is an appointee of the late Pope John Paul II at the Vatican's Pontifical Biblical Commission. He did postgraduate studies in

FILIPINO/ A21

## Canadian piglet stars in porcine Olympics




MOSCOW—ANTOINETTE FROM CANADA was the star on Saturday at the Moscow Olympics, outshining competitors from as far afield as China and South Africa.

Antoinette showed her skills on the first day of the third annual piglet Olympics in running, football and swimming. She will be the competitor to beat in Sunday's finals.

CANADIAN/ A8

# Pope seeks solution to Iran nuke crisis

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI, celebrating his first Easter as Pontiff, prayed on Sunday for peace to prevail over relentless violence in Iraq, for a negotiated "honorable" solution to the Iran nuclear crisis and for dialogue to overcome obstacles between Israel and the Palestinians.

Looking tired during Mass attended by 100,000 pilgrims and tourists at St. Peter's Square, Benedict also celebrated his 79th birthday, which coincided with Easter when Christians joyously commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion.

"Today, even in this modern age marked by anxiety and uncertainty, we live the event of the resurrection, which changed the face of our life and changed the history of humanity," Benedict said in the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (To the City and To the World) message.

Speaking from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica immediately after Mass, the Pontiff reviewed the conflicts and hot spots around the globe.

"In Iraq, may peace finally prevail over the tragic violence that continues mercilessly to claim victims," Benedict said, pausing as the crowd applauded and cheered.

"I also pray sincerely that those caught up in the conflict in the Holy Land may find peace, and I invite all to patient and persevering dialogue so as to remove both ancient and new obstacles," he said.

POPE/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2006

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Second FRONTPAGE

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/04/16/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Budget a tough rush job–Drilon

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE WILL HAVE A TOUGH TIME SCRUtinizing and approving the P1.04 trillion 2006 national budget because it has barely a month to do this before Congress adjourns on June 10, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon admitted that it would take a "Herculean effort" on the part of the Senate to fully scrutinize the House budget measure, which entirely adopted the Malacañang proposal except for some minor changes.

The Senate, he pointed out, has only 16 session days between May 15, when Congress resumes sessions after its Holy Week break, and June 10, when it adjourns sine die, to review and pass the measure.

"But how can we do that (approve the budget) when the Senate is being given only a short period to examine the budget?" he said in a statement.

He explained that while the Senate had wrapped up scrutinizing the Malacañang-proposed budget during its committee of the whole hearings, it still needed ample time to examine the budget as submitted by the House.

The senator did not discount that the delay in the House approval of the bill was a deliberate plan by the Arroyo administration "to clip the powers" of Congress from fully scrutinizing it as well as raising and appropriating public funds.

"Was this delay deliberately planned by the Arroyo administration and its allies in the House in order to clip the powers of the Senate and Congress as a whole to prevent it from fully scrutinizing the budget in the spirit of transparency and fiscal responsibility?" he said.

After months of sitting on it, the House of Representatives passed the measure on April 4, the eve of Congress adjournment for its Holy Week recess. Since then, congressmen and Malacañang have been pressing the Senate to pass the budget.

Drilon hinted that the Senate had no choice but to pass the measure, but did not say when.

"We have an obligation to our people to see to it that their hard-earned money, which was raised through taxes and other fees, are prudently and wisely disbursed, so that the benefits will accrue to them directly, and not be diverted to the pockets of bureaucrats and high officials," he said.

As things stood, further reenacting the 2005 budget or passing the 2006 budget was advantageous to the Arroyo administration which is vigorously pushing Charter change, the senator pointed out.

"If Congress fails to pass a budget for 2006, thus automatically reenacting the old budget, the administration would benefit as it would have a huge discretion to dispose of a trillion pesos or 1,000 billion pesos," he said.

# Mayuga report came up with scapegoats, not culprits–KMP

By Luige A. del Puerto and TJ Burgonio

THE MAYUGA REPORT WAS MEANT TO clear military generals implicated in electoral fraud and at the same time create "scapegoats," leftist militants said yesterday.

The military board headed by Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga that looked into the charges found that some lower-ranking officers were involved in election irregularities. The probe earlier cleared the senior officers mentioned in the "Hello Garci" recordings of any irregularity in the 2004 elections.

"The Armed Forces is creating scapegoats and sacrificial lambs in the Mayuga report to escape culpability in the election-rigging accusations hurled against them," said the left-leaning Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, a vocal critic of the Arroyo regime.

The military is implicating junior officers "just to say that they have produced results in their query," according to the KMP.

That the implicated generals were either promoted or given new assignments upon retirement merely showed patronage politics at its worst, the group said.

"The Mayuga report has lost any credibility whatsoever because even Mayuga himself was appointed by Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) to his current position," the KMP said.

"The rule of Gloria is this: Just do what I tell you to do and you will also get what you want," the group added.

## Muddling the issue

The KMP said because the inquiry expanded the investigation to include the role of the military in the elections, and did not focus on the activities of the four generals during the presidential race alone, it "obscured the real target of the investigation and muddled the issue."

The Mayuga fact-finding board cleared Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Southern Command Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon and retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, the three ranking generals accused of having conspired to cheat for Ms Arroyo.

A fourth general mentioned in the wiretapped recordings, retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, was also cleared.

The Mayuga report had also drawn fire from the officers and men on the ground.

Marine officers were fuming over the conclusion and promptly relayed their sentiments, by text, to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon who branded the report as "half-baked."

Technically, the report did not clear the generals of any charges, Biazon said.

Biazon, a former Marine who served as Armed Forces chief, shared with the INQUIRER some of the scathing criticisms of the report that was broadcast over a government TV station last Wednesday night.

"It's a mockery of an investigation," one rued in a text to the senator.

"If they were cleared, then the Garci tape [scandal] never took place, and everything follows. It's justified to lie and cheat. Philippines should be erased from the map," another said in Filipino.

"The Mayuga report is all bulls__t... They demeaned us, Marines," another said.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, declined to name the Marine officers for their own protection, but theorized that they had first-hand knowledge of cheating in the 2004 elections.

"These are people who knew [about the cheating]," he said in an interview.

Biazon, who has opened an inquiry into the highly controversial wiretapping scandal, said he himself wasn't satisfied with the report, which was submitted by Mayuga on Jan. 20, three months after the body concluded its investigation.

"It's a half-baked report. How come it still recommended the further investigation of some officers?" he said.

The senator went on to point out "curious provisions" in the report, chiefly Mayuga's claim that it was not intention of the body "to pass judgment on culpability."

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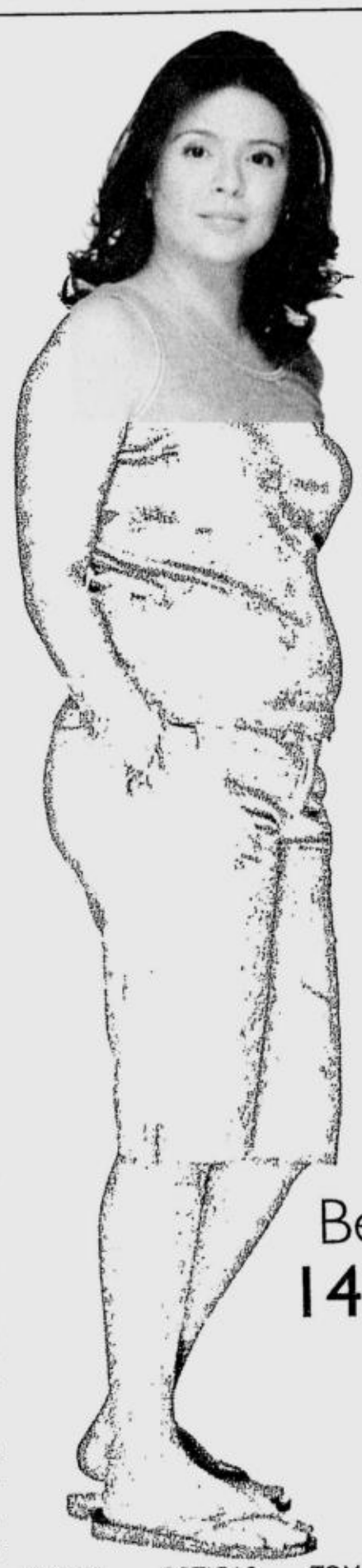

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# Little dog with big job

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE LITTLE DOG HAS A BIG JOB.

Although the Jack Russell Terrier stands just 12 inches high, he is expected to be a big help in keeping the country's ships and port areas safe from terrorist and criminal activities.

With his flexible body and small chest, the Jack Russell could easily fit in small spaces and sniff out narcotics and explosives.

The Philippine Coast Guard has acquired Domino and Kim—a pair of Jack Russell Terriers—to join its K9 unit, composed mostly of Labradors, German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois. The last three breeds are big dogs, ranging between 22 to 26 inches high and weighing between 55 to 75 lbs.

The Jack Russell Terrier is between 10 to 12 inches high and weighs between 14 to 18 lbs. Predominantly white with reddish black, tan and brown markings, the breed is known to be spirited and obedient, yet absolutely fearless.

"They are intelligent as the other breeds we train," PCG K9 office commanding officer Lt. Commander Roben de Guzman said.

Kim, a female Jack Russell Terrier, is still undergoing training. His handler is Seaman 2nd class Marimin Viernes, while Domino, who's male, does not have a handler yet.

De Guzman said that Kim, as part of her on-the-job training, could be temporarily deployed to ships in June, for the opening of classes or in November, for the All Saints' Day holidays.

The Jack Russell's size was an advantage, he said, because the dog could go into small and unreachable spaces.

"Say you have a container van and there is a small space between the stacks of boxes and the ceiling—we could send in the Jack Russell. He could crawl in that small space and bark if he detected something suspicious. Other dogs wouldn't be able to fit," De Guzman explained.

He added that the Jack Russell is less likely to frighten people because the breed is generally friendly and kind especially to children.

"We deal with people and it's important not to scare them. When children see the Jack Russell, they want to touch him and pick him up," De Guzman said.

However, most male handlers balk at the prospect of training the Jack Russell Terriers, he said.

"Our handlers, who are mostly male, want the big dogs. They probably think training a Jack Russell isn't macho," De Guzman observed.

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# SouthRail relocation impresses Korean bank

By Cynthia D. Balana

A RECENT STUDY COMMISsioned by the Korean Export-Import Bank (Eximbank) has found the government's preparations for the SouthRail resettlement program to be "very impressive and the people to be affected fully informed of it and ready for relocation," according to Vice President Noli de Castro.

De Castro said the study's findings were both "an affirmation of our preparedness for the SouthRail relocation, and an eye-opener on the things where we need to do more work."

"We learned a lot from our success and the challenges we had to overcome in North Rail, and those lessons will certainly help us in South Rail," De Castro said.

Eximbank and the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of Korea, signed an agreement to provide funding amounting to $15.42 million and $35 million, respectively, for Phase 1 of the South Rail Commuter Project of the Philippine National Railways (PNR).

Phase 1 will affect some 31,752 families living along the 40-kilometer stretch from Caloocan-South to Alabang, Muntinlupa.

The study team found a high level of awareness among the affected families, with 98.19 percent learning about the relocation program from the general assemblies, consultation meetings and information campaign carried out by the local government.

There were no negative responses to the benefits package prepared by the government despite some concerns arising from limited information on the availability of facilities such as water supply and electricity in the relocation sites, the study said.

It said the systems for the relocation program prepared by the National Housing Authority (NHA) were "well in-place and organized."

It also reported that "PNR/NHA has established a satisfactory procedure for the relocation of the affected families, and the study team is generally satisfied with the stakeholders' response to the project."

# De Venecia bats for Asean Parliament

KUALA LUMPUR—SPEAKER JOSE DE VENEcia, visiting Malaysia as president of the 27th Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), has proposed the creation of an Asean Parliamentary Council as a prelude to a Southeast Asia-wide Parliament to advance regional integration.

In wide-ranging talks with Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, who chairs the 39th Asean Standing Committee, De Venecia also discussed in detail the establishment of an Asean Community by 2020 based on the three pillars of regional security, economic and socio-cultural community.

Under the Vientiane Action Program (2004-2010), leaders of the 10 Asean states agreed during their summit to accelerate the process of regional integration and to narrow the development gap within the region.

De Venecia stressed during the consultation meeting that Southeast Asia "needs to ensure that political unification takes place hand in hand with economic community."

He said that a regional parliament would "confirm and legislate the agreements that our Executives and diplomats make on economic, political and cultural unification."

The Speaker cited as a model the European Parliament that started off as a "Consultative Assembly" in 1965 and did not receive its initial powers to pass European laws until 1992.

"An Asean Parliament could begin its life similarly, although, given the urgency of some of our problems, we may not be able to wait that long," De Venecia said.

He said that Asean increasingly needs to "speak with one voice" on global issues such as world peace, terrorism, poverty, debt burden of the poorest states, the degeneration of the global environment, the trade in narcotic drugs and other cross-border crimes, trade, human rights and social justice."

# Seminar on media, teaching at DLSU

THE FILIPINO DEpartment of De La Salle University-Manila will hold the 2006 National Seminar in Filipino with this year's theme "Wikang Filipino, Midya at Pagtuturo: Mga Isyu, Perspekib at Pamamaraan" on April 26-28 at Room 407-408, Yuchengco Building of DLSU-Manila.

Lecturers are the national and international award-winning scriptwriter and director Dr. Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. (keynote speaker); the Palanca Hall of Famer and national critic Dr. Isagani R. Cruz (on the topic the use of cell phone/texting in teaching); award-winning poet and long-time book editor Rogelio Mangahas (textbook and language concerns); Ms Maria Jovita Zarate (the use of television and film in teaching); Dr. Teresita Maceda (the use of radio in teaching), among others.

The Filipino department, whose current chair is the multi-awardee writer Dr. Fanny A. Garcia, is homebase to Philippine Studies undergraduate and graduate programs that encompass Language, Culture and Media Areas.

Registration fee is P3,000.


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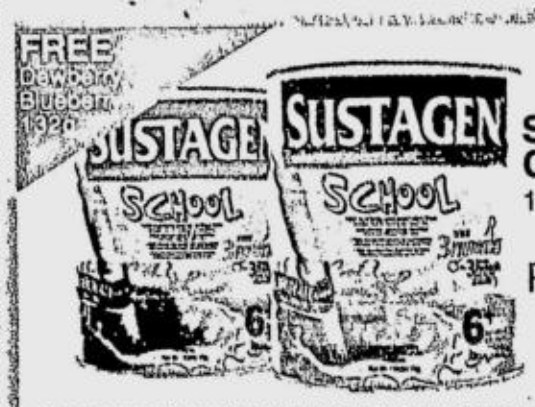


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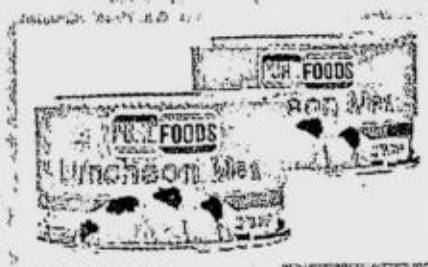


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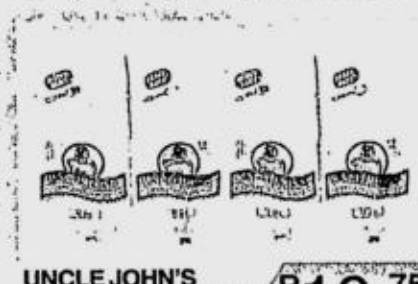

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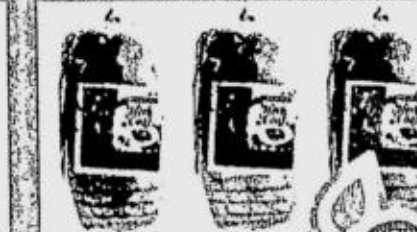

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# FBI agents nab Mancao in Florida

From page A1

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, the Philippine National Police spokesperson, also confirmed Mancao's arrest, saying it was a "purely internal affair" of the US government.

"Mancao himself is being sought by Philippine authorities so that he can shed light on a string of cases that evidence tend to pinpoint his participation," the brief PNP statement issued by Pagdilao said.

Mancao, along with former Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, reportedly left the Philippines in July 2001 following the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

Mancao and Aquino served in Estrada's defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force previously headed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who was then PNP director general.

Their names have been mentioned in connection with the widely publicized murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito in November 2000, among several sensational slayings.

In September last year, Aquino and Leandro Aragoncillo, a Philippine-born US citizen working as an intelligence analyst, were arrested in the United States, for allegedly passing to Philippine opposition leaders' confidential information pilfered from the FBI and the White House office of Vice President Dick Cheney. Aragoncillo had worked in Cheney's office.

## Lacson: Mancao gave up

Lacson insisted that Mancao surrendered and was not arrested as the DFA and PNP said.

The opposition senator told the INQUIRER yesterday that he spoke to Mancao's wife Maricar on Saturday and was told that her husband surrendered in Miami a day after FBI agents "raided" their Florida home.

Maricar, who is a doctor, told Lacson that FBI agents served a "material warrant" on her husband. But she said he was not at home.

Lacson said that according to Maricar, the FBI warrant showed that Mancao was "being charged as a material witness in the Aragoncillo case."

Espionage charges have been filed against Aragoncillo, who had allegedly stolen 101 pieces of classified information, including 37 regarded as "secret," and passed them on by electronic mail to Manila from May to August 2005.

Lacson, Estrada, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez have admitted receiving e-mails from either Aragoncillo or Aquino but dismissed their intelligence value.

## Legal notices

Mancao's arrest came two months after US officials informed Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor J.V. Ejercito, that their phone calls and electronic communication had been under surveillance in connection with the Aragoncillo case.

Lacson also received a legal notice from US authorities last year, informing him that his e-mail account was found in the seized laptop of Aquino.

It is still unclear what the legal notices to Estrada and his son and Lacson mean, but legal circles have suggested these could be an alert to them for a possible US court action.

Before being taken into FBI custody, Mancao had engaged in the real estate business for several months, according to Lacson.

Lacson said that a US magistrate court was due to hear Mancao's case on Tuesday, which would also involve possible bail for his release.

*With reports from Volt Contreras and Luige A. del Puerto and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

# Canadian ...

From page A1

Twelve pink, black and spotted piglets were in competition. Each of the six Russian and six foreign piglets was carried into the arena, squealing angrily and dressed in its own numbered bib.

All the curly tailed contestants were introduced with national flags and appropriate music before Tatiana Kolchanova, director general of the union of domestic animal businesses, formally declared the third annual games open.

The first contest involved races along closed paths, with the Russian team, wearing red, going first. Its captain, Kostik Russisches Schwein, made a distinguished showing and grunted his satisfaction into a microphone.

The visitors, who wore blue, included stars from France, Latvia and Ukraine.

There was a false start after someone pushed a piggy from behind, which is against the rules. Antoinette subsequently cruised to victory, with Jean-Francois of France in second place.

Then came soccer with real leather footballs coated in fish oil, a porcine treat, to encourage the competitors.

In pigball, the contestants chase a sweet-tasting soccer ball around an enclosed arena with their snouts, scoring when the ball goes into a goal.

Again, Antoinette, a skilled attacking player, caught the eye.

But the piglets were tired when the swimming competition began. They would need to rest overnight.

Hundreds of Russians gathered for the first day of the piglet Olympics. They laid bets on challengers, such as Mykola from Ukraine, Nelson from South Africa and the home favorite, Kostik Russisches Schwein.

The pig admirers included ultra-nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky. He bet 100 rubles ($3.60) on Borka, a namesake of one of his political rivals, to win the pig race.

"I've always loved pigs all my life. I had four or five when I was a kid," Zhirinovsky told Reuters.

Alexei Sharshkov, the vice president of the Sport Pig Federation, which claims 100 members, said the competitors had a happy future ahead of them, win or lose.

"They go on to produce a new generation of sport pigs. They don't get eaten," Sharskov promised.

"How could you eat a competitor who is known around the world?" *AFP, Reuters*

## Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page story—"Missionary leader shows RP global religious clout"—misstated that Fr. Antonio Pernia, the superior of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), is the first Asian to be elected superior of an international religious order of the Catholic Church. At least one other Filipino has previously been elected head of an international Catholic religious order. In 1994, Mother Irene Dabalus was elected prioress general of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters.

* * *

ALSO IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page article—"This is the best time to be a Filipino"—misspelled the name of a Gawad Kalinga volunteer. The correct spelling of the GK volunteer's name is Eena—not Elena—Kanapi.

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# Test runs for Rapu-Rapu mine sought

ALBAY REP. CARLOS IMPERIAL HAS urged test runs of the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic project to find out if corrective measures put in place by the mining firm Lafayette Philippines meet the standards for safe and responsible mining operations and settle other pending critical issues once and for all.

Imperial, in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier this month, said allowing temporary operations of the mine would determine once and for all if the project conforms to existing environmental regulations.

Lafayette chair and president Carlos G. Dominguez had said the test runs are the best way to measure the company's compliance and likened it to test-driving a car before buying it.

The Rotary Club of Metro Legazpi also supported the move, saying in a resolution that it would like to see if Dominguez is true to his promise that the company would act responsibly.


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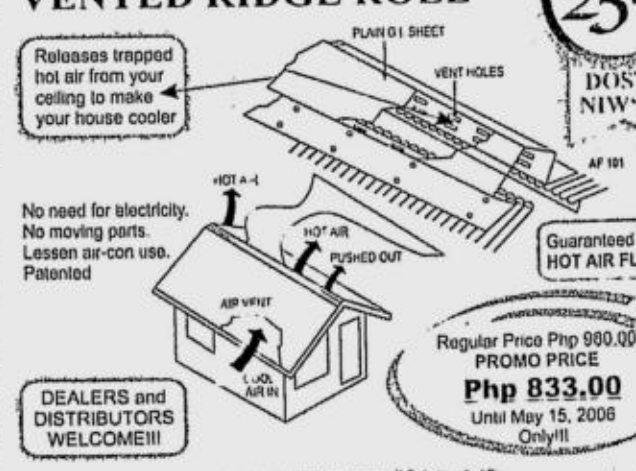

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## SIGNATURE DRIVE FOR CHA-CHA

# Ulap joins initiative petition

THE 1.7 MILLION-STRONG UNION OF LOCAL Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) announced yesterday it would join the multisectoral Sigaw ng Bayan coalition in filing with the Commission on Elections a people's initiative petition to amend the 1987 Constitution and shifting the country to a unicameral parliamentary government.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who heads both Ulap and the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), said the Ulap national board, at a recent meeting, authorized him to sign for Ulap as a co-petitioner with Sigaw ng Bayan, a coalition of more than 300 sectoral groups and nongovernment organizations advocating immediate Charter amendments.

This developed as the militant group Pamalakaya, said a respected body like the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, not the pro-Charter change business groups, should spearhead public debates on the move to amend the Constitution.

Pamalakaya made the statement in response to the announcement of two big business groups that they would sponsor debates to help the public make a better choice on the issues, specially those pertaining to economic reforms.

In a statement, Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc. (FFCCCI) had no moral and political right to take the initiative in holding public discussions on constitutional reforms.

This, he said, was because they had already signified their support for Charter change and will only use their resources to promote the move, he added. He also called the group's suggestion "pure monkey business."

"While we encourage debates on Cha-cha, the venues provided by pro-Cha-cha big business groups won't be conducive for those who want to expose this millennium betrayal of national sovereignty and patrimony, civil liberties and people's rights," Hicap said.

Ulap's partnership with Sigaw ng Bayan includes the nationwide drive to gather the signatures of Filipinos in 213 congressional districts in provinces and cities all over the archipelago. The campaign, Sigaw claims, has so far gathered 8.3 million signatures and could reach from 10 to 23 million signatures in the next two weeks.

Aumentado said ordinary Filipinos want reforms for "the opportunity to build a better future for them and their families."

Ulap secretary general and Mandaue City Councilor Carlo Fortuna, who heads the 19,000-strong Philippine Councilors League, said all documents containing duly verified signature sheets will be attached to the formal plea to be presented to the Comelec.

"The signatories will be classified as petitioners in the People's Initiative," he said.

Fortuna said that if the current campaign succeeds in reaching 10 million to 12 million signatories, this will be the ultimate number of petitioners in the People's Initiative to amend the Constitution.'

Albay Vice Gov. James Calinisin, Ulap spokesperson and Vice Governors' League of the Philippines president, said the union has yet to decide when to file the petition because "there are still people who want to sign up in support of the People's Initiative."

Aumentado said that in his province of Bohol alone, 43.22 percent of registered voters have already signed up "and we are still counting." *With a report from Leila Salaverria*

# Ombudsman warns gov't execs

**By Nelson F. Flores**

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ HAS threatened with criminal and administrative charges all national and local officials who would refuse to implement sanctions imposed by her office on erring government personnel.

Gutierrez, in a two-page memorandum dated April 11, reminded all national and local government officials, including heads of government owned and controlled corporations, that the law compels them to enforce and decision, orders or resolutions made or imposed by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Gutierrez explained that, "the filing of a motion for reconsideration or a petition for review before the Office of the Ombudsman does not operate to stay the immediate implementation of the foregoing Ombudsman decisions, orders or resolutions."

Thus, she said, implementation of an Ombudsman decision must be enforced upon receipt.

"Only a temporary Restraining Order or a Writ of Preliminary Injunction duly issued by a court of competent jurisdiction stays the immediate implementation of the Ombudsman's decisions, orders or resolution," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez' memorandum came in the heels of the failure of interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to implement her suspension order on Cavite governor Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi.

Early last week, Gutierrez ordered the implementation of Maliksi's six-month suspension without pay after the Court of Appeals lifted a preliminary injunction that prevented his suspension earlier.


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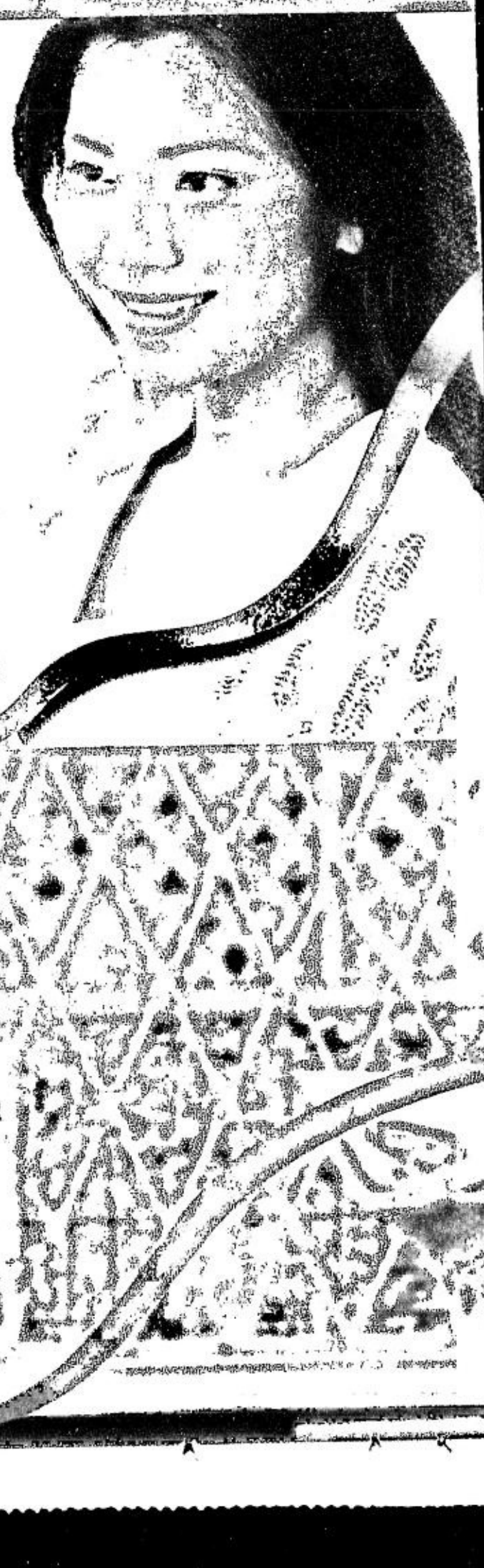

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# Life after death

**EDITORIAL**

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S EASTER SUNday decision to commute all existing death sentences to life imprisonment is fraught with compromise and tactical calculation—but it is nevertheless overdue and welcome.

The President's traditional Easter Message, announced on Black Saturday, bore an untraditional policy announcement: "On the occasion of Easter, it is my honor to announce our policy to commute the death penalty to life imprisonment." The surprise was greater because the announcement offered no explanation.

An accompanying press release issued by the Palace quoted an apparently different holiday statement. "In her Easter Message, the President said anyone who falls and makes mistakes has a chance to stand up and correct the wrong he has committed. 'As we celebrate and rejoice in Jesus' resurrection, I wish to announce that we are changing our policy on those who have been imposed the death penalty. We are reducing their penalty to life imprisonment,' the President said."

Without a doubt, the President's sudden but not completely unexpected decision was aimed at pleasing the country's influential Catholic bishops. The hundred or so prelates have consistently campaigned against the death penalty as inhumane and ultimately unchristian; they have also just come out with a politely written but strongly argued pastoral statement against what they call the "alleged" people's initiative to change the Constitution.

In the President's five-paragraph Easter Message, she devotes one paragraph to a summary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' position. "Our beloved bishops spoke of the people's fear of more chaotic politics even as they struggle to make a decent living. We seek above all the nation's salvation from poverty and discord."

It may be too soon to say whether this means the Palace will rediscover its opposition to the controversial, DILG-supported people's initiative. We doubt it. But the decision to commute all death sentences will certainly convince many bishops that first, the President retains the capacity for governance despite her crisis of legitimacy; and second, her latest policy announcement is a victory for their campaign against capital punishment.

(It also demonstrates that "the little girl," whom Sen. Joker Arroyo spoke of in half-admiring, half-derogatory tones, retains the ability to set the agenda, to stay at least a step ahead of those opposed to her. Not least, it places some of the President's most vocal critics, such as Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., a staunch anti-death penalty advocate, in a tactically disadvantageous position: If they oppose her on this issue, they will appear obstructionist; if they cavil at the decision, pointing out its limitations, they will appear churlish.)

But while the decision that saves over 1,200 men and women from death row should be welcomed, we should also realize that the decision itself is the product of cunning compromise.

If the President really wants to do away with the death penalty, she can lead a campaign in Congress to repeal the 10-year-old law. But nothing in her Easter Message or in the explanatory press statement suggests that she is willing to spend what's left of her political capital to do just that. Such a campaign may in fact conflict with the Charter change schedule her closest legislative allies have set their hearts on.

And if she really wants to leave a legacy as the President who chose life, she must call a stop to the continuing killing, the slow-motion massacre, of leftist activists. She must also put her weight behind the effort to find those who have murdered journalists, and bring them to justice.

We doubt, however, whether these are steps President Arroyo can or is willing to take. The lack of explanation in her Easter Message is a clue; she is prepared to say and do only that which will meet her specific political objectives. The repeal of the death penalty or the political embrace of leftist activists (for at least the second time in her career) do not play to her deepest interests.

That leaves us with over 1,200 commuted sentences—still a boon, an authentic Easter gift, for those who believe in the promise of reform and rehabilitation.

# Lament for a dying town

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

IT IS USUALLY AROUND HOLY THURSDAY OR Good Friday that I get to visit my relatives in Malabon because that is the time when there is no heavy traffic clogging the roads going there. Malabon is now a city but it doesn't look like one. It looks like any old decaying town with its narrow streets crammed with jeepneys and tricycles. Squatters occupy riverbanks and every other empty (or what used to be empty) space. Malabon wasn't like that.

Malabon was a nice place when I was growing up in it. It was the best of both worlds: It was near enough to Manila so that residents could shop in Divisoria or Avenida Rizal; yet it was far enough from the city to keep its rustic atmosphere and enjoy plenty of space and fresh air. For a town separated from Manila only by Caloocan, it had rice fields, plenty of fishponds, orchards and large commercial vegetable gardens.

Now all of those are gone. The unfinished city hall now occupies what used to be a vegetable garden cultivated by Chinese farmers in Barangay Catmon; and what used to be the rice fields and fishponds are now packed with houses. Sometimes it is better to think how Malabon was, back when you were a boy, than to go there and see it for what it is now.

Our big family compound used to be in the middle of fishponds, like an island. It was connected to the street by a long footpath on top of pond dikes. Nearby was the river, and over it the wooden bridge (now concrete and steel) to Catmon and Tenejeros.

Around our island grew *kakawati* trees and *gumammela* bushes which shielded the house from the street across the pond. Twice a year, the *kakawatis* unfurled their pink blossoms, and from the street the island would look like a pink powder puff. (The cherry blossoms of Tokyo and Washington, D.C. would have paled in comparison to our *kakawati* blooms which were in brighter pink and lasted longer.) The fallen blossoms decorated the waters of the pond below and adult milkfish would play with them.

In the heat of summer, when the blossoms had ripened into brown shiny pods, you could hear the "tick, tick, tick" of the pods as they burst open in the heat and spread their seeds. The empty pods would fall to the ground where they twisted themselves into pretzels. We collected them for kindling; they burned readily because of the oil in them. With the first rains of May, the seeds would begin to sprout.

One of my regular chores was to cut the branches of two or three *kakawati* trees for firewood. I would cut and split them and dry them in the sun, and by the time I would be finished—usually after several days—we would have enough firewood for our needs during the rainy season. The *kakawati* trees took turns in supplying our firewood. The branches cut earlier would grow new ones, so that by the time it was a tree's turn to be cut again, the new branches were big enough.

On two of the trees, thorny bougainvillea vines had climbed, so that these *kakawati* trees would be covered alternately with pink and red flowers. I could not climb these two trees because of the bougainvillea thorns, so they were spared my bolo and their branches grew really big.

We had many animals on that island. Besides the usual dogs and cats, we had plenty of chickens and ducks (which made the fishponds their playground), pigs, a nanny goat and her four kids, and two horses.

The two horses, a white mare and a bay stallion, were used by my oldest brother to pull the *caretela*, one in the morning, and one in the afternoon and evening.

Another of my chores was to help feed and care for the horses. And the best chore of all was to take one or the other horse swimming once or twice a week.

A number of our neighbors also had horses, and on the day assigned for bathing the horses, we would gather together and race toward the swimming spot on the river in Tenejeros. We would gallop like cowboys, the hooves pounding on the wooden bridge heard up to the next barrios, past Catmon and on to Tenejeros where the bank sloped gently into the river.

We would let the horses swim for exercise, with us either swimming alongside, clinging to their manes, or riding on their backs. Then we would scrub and brush and rinse the horses and slowly walk back home so as not to raise dust that would cling to their fur.

In a barrio where children, male and female, learned to swim almost as soon as they learned how to walk, the river was a playground. During high tide, the river near the bridge was always full of children, their happy voices echoing in the neighborhood. Like monkeys or Tarzan minus the vines, we would chase one another through the mangrove trees that lined the banks of the river. During low tide, we would either catch shrimps by grubbing for them in the mud, or look for crabs among the mangrove roots. It was easy to find them. They had holes in the mud or on the banks of the river. The claw marks at the hole entrance were a sign that a crab was inside. With digging tools and a long pole with an L-shaped piece of steel at the end, we could coax a big crab out of its hole within 30 minutes.

Besides playing games and wrestling matches, we spent most of our time fishing, using hook and line—which to us was also playing. We caught plenty of thumb-sized fish called "*biya*"; our older brothers caught game fish like tarpon and "*bidbid*" or "*biyang puti*." Sometimes, somebody would suggest a picnic, and the girls would cook our catch. They would gather the *camote* tops, tamarind fruits and other ingredients for *sinigang*; our mothers provided the rice. We would eat from banana leaves under a tree, and the food, to me, never tasted more delicious—until now, even when I am just thinking about it.

How I wish progress had not changed Malabon.

# Discernment

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

THE ONE THING THAT TRULY PUT ME IN Lenten mode and specifically made me feel glass-spiked thongs biting into my flesh, or brain, was GMA telling us last week: "Let us use our strong faith in God to discern between the truth and false promises, between good intentions and evil designs, between genuine harmony and actions that bring conflict to our people." I almost fell off my seat while reading this. GMA said it while taking a two-day retreat, itself almost cheekily entitled "Stop and Listen," in the presidential Mansion.

Lita Salinas, who conducted the retreat, explained things in this wise: "In the last two days, she (GMA) was convinced that it is useless for us to go about doing what we have to do everyday if we are our own sin, let's call it that .... No matter how brilliant we are, we don't know all the answers. We don't listen to God often enough because we do all the talking."

Shortly before I read that, someone offered me a theory about how GMA has lasted this long. It's simply, she said, because we never expected that anyone could or would go past the outermost limits of the acceptable. GMA doesn't mind doing so. Indeed, more: It's not just that she can lie and not bother to try to hide it. It's that she can lie and insist forcibly (in more ways than one) her lie is the truth and everybody else's truth the lie. How do you deal with someone like that?

Indeed, how do you deal with someone who uses God himself to endorse the most reprehensible things on earth? I don't recall even Marcos claiming he owed his position only to God. If you're a God-fearing Christian, you would know that not all who say "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of God. You would know that if you wrong your fellow man, not all the retreats in the world, not all the visitations to Our Lady of Agoo, not all the contributions to building churches will save you from hellfire when your day comes.

Is it possible that the one person who has come to embody False Promise would actually ask us to use our strong faith in God to discern the difference between true and false promise? Who was it who promised she would not run again but ran anyway? Is it possible that the one person who has become the embodiment of the word "fake" would actually ask us to discern the difference between what is genuine and what is phony? Who was it who mistook Garci's voice for God's (God's ways can't be so mysterious he would want to use either of the two voices in that tape!) and now says God put her there for a purpose?

Is it possible that the one person who is threatening to go past Marcos in perverting every institution to rule forever would actually ask us to use our strong faith in God to discern between good intentions and evil machinations? I don't know that the editors of The New York Times have a strong faith in God, but even they have discerned that GMA has revived "crony corruption, presidential vote-rigging, and intimidation of critical journalists," all neon signs of evil designs. In fact, you want to see evil design, look no farther, it stares you in the face. Cha-cha is the very dance of the devil.

And it is possible that the one person who is the single biggest source of this nation's enmity and strife should ask us to use our strong faith in God to discern between genuine harmony and actions that bring conflict to our people? Who was it who foretold, completely accurately, that if she ran for president and won—she did not add by cheating—she would plunge this country into a cycle of never-ending divisiveness? Who is it whose continued stay in office—despite 65 percent of the population wanting her to disappear from the face of the earth and 36 percent (as against only 35 percent opposing it) saying preferably by way of military action—is causing near-universal apocalyptic weeping and gnashing of teeth?

The bravado is breathtaking. And makes you truly wonder what to do with someone who is deterred neither by *hiya* nor heaven, neither by fear of man nor fear of God. That anyone can draw attention to one's faults but project them on to everybody else, well, it does make you stand in awe, quite apart from horror. To be sure it mocks the spirit of Holy Week completely, parading as it does a humongous irony. In the holiest week in all of Christendom, Christ took on the sins of the world and sacrificed himself to pay for them. In the ugliest of times in all of Philippine history, GMA assigns her sins to the world and sacrifices everyone to pay for them.

Salinas is right: It is useless for us to go about doing what we do every day if we are our own sin. I don't know that Thaksin Shinawatra goes to the Buddhist version of retreats, but it is he obviously, and not GMA, who has grasped that concept. It is useless for a leader to try to solve the country's problems if the country's problems are the leader himself. The Christian, as much as Buddhist, solution to the problem is simple: Resign.

Do we really need a deep faith in God to see right and wrong, good and evil, truth and lie in this country today? God has been known to take the form of Common Sense, too. Indeed, in a democracy God has been known to take the form of the will of the people, too: *Vox populi, vox Dei*. The voice of the people is the voice of God.

You can't hear the people shouting you're a fake president, you can't hear the people ordering you out, you can't hear the curses the people are raining on your head every day—indeed you can hear only the people clamoring for Cha-cha—don't bother going to retreats that ask you to stop and listen.

You won't hear the voice of God, you'll just hear the voice of the Fellow Downstairs. He speaks with many tongues—sometimes even with a Garcillanic accent.

# Churchmen and Charter change

SOUNDING BOARD

*Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.*

THE SHIBBOLETH OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH and State has not infrequently been used by political scoundrels to gag the clergy and prevent them from participating in the political process. Not too long ago, a group went to the extent of asking the judiciary to stop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Erafio Manalo and Mike Velarde from endorsing candidates. A similar attempt is coming up again in the wake of the pronouncement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on the ongoing Charter change campaign. It will not succeed and should never succeed because it is based on an erroneous reading of what separation of Church and State is all about. It also forgets the other half of the constitutional provision which guarantees free exercise of religion. Not only that, it also violates the freedom of expression.

Let's begin with freedom of expression.

When I decided to become a priest, I did not thereby give up my citizenship and my precious freedom of expression. No politician can deprive me of those. Whether or not clerics should shut up is a matter between them and Canon Law over which no politician has jurisdiction. In a democracy such as ours, proudly proclaimed by the administration, attempts to silence religious critics are usually a desperate defense of indefensible positions.

But what of the separation of Church and State?

Separation of Church and State is the usual refuge of political scoundrels. Papal teachings lay out a pastorally inescapable "public" role for churchmen. This is disputed by those who would prefer to keep the clergy submissively silent by appealing to the principle of separation of Church and State. The question which, however, has always to be asked is: What elements does the Constitution seek to separate?

Separatism is textually expressed as "non-establishment" or "separation"; and, in legal literature, it is described as "neutrality," or "non-involvement," or "non-entanglement." Significantly, however, neither Church nor State is defined in the Constitution. In fact, the literature on the subject has developed around the phrase "non-establishment of religion" and not around "separation of Church and State."

But whatever phrase may be used, questions arise. What may not be "established"? What precisely are being separated and how? Or, what is the "religion" which the Constitution says may not be "established," and what does it take to "establish" a religion? And what is "Church" and what is "State" whose separation must remain inviolable?

In the eyes of the contemporary churches, there has been a blurring of the distinction between the temporal and the spiritual. Religion therefore cannot just be a matter of disembodied spirit. Or, as the expression usually has it, religion is not just for the sacristy.

Similarly, the jurisprudential understanding of religion has evolved. Non-theistic religions such as Buddhism, ethical culture and secular humanism are within the ambit of constitutional protection. In fact, non-belief is also a protected right.

After you put side by side the claimed scope of the mission of the church on the one hand, and the all-embracing scope of police power and the expanded jural definition of religion on the other, where do you draw the line of separation? Or what is there that the State should be neutral about? As Bishop Tutu is quoted as saying: "I am not able to understand what Bible is read by those who say that religion and politics must not be mixed." Quite clearly, the chances for convergence of Church and State interests are extremely high, if not inevitable.

We can also look at the subject from the angle of the respective structures of Church and State. Between the structures of each, what are the points of contact? To begin with, the people of God and the people of Mammon are ontologically identical. In the Philippines, Catholics demographically form the majority of both structures. In terms of "voice" in public policy formulation, the people, whether of God or of Mammon, have the constitutional right to be heard and to petition government for redress of grievances. Hierarchs and clergy or religious persons, from the point of view of constitutional law, are people and citizens (those of them who are citizens). They therefore enjoy the constitutional rights of people and citizens. In terms of "voice" participation in the formulation of public policy, the limitation on hierarchs and clergy and religious does not come from the Constitution but from church law and the norms of Christian prudence. In fact, the right to participate in political discourse is protected by more than just one constitutional guarantee.

Considering all this, have we therefore stripped the constitutional law doctrine on Church and State of all meaning? That is not what I am saying. In the first place, the church as Church and hierarchs as hierarchs cannot authoritatively dictate state law or policy. But they can compete in the marketplace of ideas. Conversely, civil government as civil government and government officials as government officials may not dictate church law or policy, but certainly they have the freedom to criticize church behavior.

It is, therefore, clear that the battle cry of separation of Church and State is not something which can be tossed around irresponsibly. Neither is it an all-purpose gag on the clergy. Frequently, however, those who cry "Separate Church from State!" really mean "Gag the clergy!" They will not succeed.

# Gullibility

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

*Antonio J. Montalvan II*

IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED THE "CAFETERIA Christianity," or better yet—in the Philippines, where we have a large non-Christian population—a cafeteria kind of faith or practice of religiosity. It is called such because in a cafeteria, one can choose what he or she likes; or pick from an array of choices that which appeals best to him or her.

And this is exactly how we practice our faith. We choose only what we like. The rest we discard.

But what we like may not exactly be good for us. Yet, we choose it over the others for reasons that are convenient to our personal tastes. And our personal convenience may not necessarily be the best judge.

The cafeteria way of practicing one's faith is part of the worldwide problem that is known as secularization. A writer from the INQUIRER online edition recently wrote about secularization. Fr. Roy Cimagala started by saying that "life is actually one"—a contradiction to the cafeteria mentality, which makes us take things in stages or by parts, which we view as totally unrelated to each other.

Taking off from the topic of education, Father Cimagala explained how we wrongly make these parts work for us:

"The different parts of our being—our intelligence, our will, our emotions and bodily aspects, even our social life—find their proper objects in God.

"But these truths are often taken for granted. And sometimes from this indifference and complacency, a more serious attitude of disbelief can develop with a matching moral life that cannot rid itself (of) sin and evil.

"The problem that we often have is to consider education independently of God. The problem comes when we pursue our idea of human development and maturity outside of the forces of religion and faith.

"The problem develops when we simply depend and rely on our own powers, often forgetting that these powers—intelligence and will, especially—come from God, and have to be used according to God's laws, not simply to our own will.

"This problem can become so widespread that we can talk about a certain secularization, that is, a systematic removal of God from all human affairs, replacing him with our own ideas of what is good and bad. We develop a secularized world.

"We now make ourselves our own god, the ultimate creator and designer of the world, of what is right and wrong, etc. And thus, everything now depends on us. What we cannot cope, we simply dismiss, and we don't seem to care about what would happen. This is the ultimate expression of self-deification."

By dismissing parts of our faith that are, in reality, designed for our own good, we actually choose a life that does not work—not only for the common good but also for the nurturing of human dignity. The sad thing is that much of our secularized thought mostly comes from the lifestyles of the West. For example, the popularization of artificial contraception is largely a concept from the West, where moral values or standards, to begin with, have long declined. Until now, pro-contraceptive demographers are still silent on the perils—already here—that descend on societies with aging populations, also called the "demographic winter." And that is because they see only one part, not the whole.

I think it is secularization that is much to blame for the dangers brought about by the popular acceptance of Dan Brown's much-ballyhooed "The Da Vinci Code" and the National Geographic's "Judas Gospel." Why, this is not the first time we read of such theses. The so-called Gnostic and apocryphal gospels have been with mankind for centuries; and, in fact, contrary to some lies being peddled by rabid anti-Catholics, they have always been accessible to scholars for reading.

Brown has admitted "The Da Vinci Code" is fiction, but I do not think he was totally oblivious of the sales prospects of his book, or of the proceeds going his way from people who, he probably knew, would be just too willing to accept his thesis as gospel truth. That is how the cafeteria mentality works. A related literature I have read—it purports to be an encyclopedic accompaniment to Brown's "The Da Vinci Code"—is hopelessly ill-researched, and yet it speaks as though it had the authority to debunk certain truths of faith and religious practices. But it is, I was told, being gobbled up in bookstores.

Secularization has made us a shamelessly gullible people.

By the way, the cafeteria is never complete without the cash register.

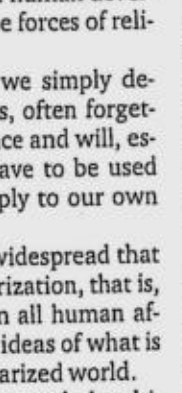
* * *

*Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph*

# Unintended unity

THE LONG VIEW

*Manuel L. Quezon III*



A THIRD OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES needs constitutional change by next year, otherwise the three-term limit kicks in and they have to give way to someone else. Many governors and mayors face the same problem. Not every congressman, governor, or mayor—regardless of his or her own performance; or despite the fact that, after nine years of having reached a kind of modus vivendi, existing provincial factions and alliances don't look forward to an altered political landscape—can be sure that his or her handpicked successor will win in 2007.

Conventional wisdom has it that the administration coalition isn't keen on elections next year, because it expects to suffer massive defeat in that arena. If the scuttlebutt about surveys is correct, the best that leading Palace national candidate Michael Defensor could get to would be No. 15 in the next senatorial elections. Close, but in a 12-slot race, no cigar. On the other hand, Speaker Jose de Venecia is said to be worried over a mayor who has been showing surprising popularity in the Speaker's congressional district.

If all politics is local, then the local landscape reveals a terrain perfectly suited for constitutional change of a specific kind. The kind aimed at transforming the country into a collection of reservations for the preservation of the existing political leadership. That would be good, of course, for the leadership and the political class in general; it would be more of the same for the majority of their constituents. It would, therefore, be not so bad for anyone, since most everyone is used to dealing with the leadership. But it would end definitively any prospects of the country changing or evolving into a more modern, efficient and democratic society.

I tend to think of this in the following terms: the accomplishment of the dreams of the grandees at Malolos, who in 1899 viewed a collection of fiefdoms ruled over by their kind, assembled in a unicameral, pseudo-parliamentary government; versus the dreams of people like Apolinario Mabini who viewed a modern, integrated and more participatory nation-state (after a period of emergency dictatorship).

If the motivations of our national leadership remain firmly mired in the political needs of their pet districts, then it makes sense that the President is a party to efforts meant to address those needs.

The details don't matter: will it be through a two-step process—in which, as the first step, the public is asked if they want the legislature transformed into a unicameral National Assembly; and in the second, have a new body to propose further changes? Or will it be through a kind of plebiscitary sleight-of-hand, in which a dazzling number of changes will end up being approved without the public quite knowing it? In the end, it doesn't matter, so long as the fundamental goals are met.

The goals are: eliminate national candidacies; drop term limits; merge the executive with the legislative; and possibly, prune the powers of the judiciary; if possible, reward with an extra term—election (thus, expense)-free—those who would collaborate in the process.

I have yet to be convinced that as far as congressmen, governors and mayors are concerned, failure in the ongoing effort is an option.

I am more open to the idea, though, that the President remains—as she has always been reported to be—ambivalent as far as constitutional change under her leadership is concerned. That is because her motivations are different. The first being to preserve what powers she has, and if possible, to increase them; the second being, to ensure her political survival until 2010 and beyond—and to consolidate her power as soon as possible. Power can be consolidated sooner if rivals are eliminated sooner than later. And rivals exist not only in the opposition, but also within the ranks of the administration coalition.

The President herself can, if need be, wait for the constitutional amendments to be approved and implemented no later than June 30, 2010. That is her deadline. Her options are actually more varied than those being explored by the House. As one observer noted in private: the President could call for a Constitutional Convention and, in one fell swoop, neutralize all organized opposition (be it the CBCP or the Senate) to existing efforts to amend the Constitution. Or, she could simply wait to see which of two parallel efforts succeeds or fails: the amendments proposed by a Congress acting as a Constituent Assembly, or the simulated "people's initiative." If both failed, she could call for a convention.

A defeat for Charter change now would knock out the Speaker as a rival, though it would guarantee a few months of noise which, anyway, could be soothed by the liberal doling out of patronage. The President could then build up her own pet party, transforming it into the new and dominant partner in the ruling coalition, on her own terms.

The whole thing, though, seems too extreme and dangerous. It is better to keep everyone in political circles happy than to alienate any more than there already are outside the *kulambo*. As it is, the manner in which constitutional change is being attempted is offending individuals and groups who, up to this point, refuse to be drawn into the fight between the President and her critics. Now, however, the fight is larger than being for or against the President. It now pits the majority of the political class against those who want to see that class, at the very least, evolve into something better; and at the most, replace it with something else altogether.

In the meantime, there is a new basis for unity: opposition to Charter change as it has been presented.

For the President, it is also an opportunity: to destroy all forms of opposition once and for all.

* * *

*Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog*

# Ripples on the pond

COMMENTARY

*Maria Lim-Ayuyao*

HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE.

Yesterday, the Christian world marked the end of the Lenten season where we all reflected on the meaning of Christ's selflessness as He suffered and died on the Cross, and the triumph that was His resurrection.

As president of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, I lead the Education Revolution. This advocacy draws on our selflessness as we all work toward bringing quality education within reach of the pupils and students in public schools.

My mother used to tell me that when you drop a pebble in the middle of the pond, it would create ripples that will surely reach the shore, come what may. This was her way of telling me that everything we do is important, especially for the people around us.

A few days ago, Eggie Apostol showed me a letter she received from a gentleman named Leonardo Mariano. The letter was a reaction to her article "A guest speaker in Sitio Talaga," which was about her experience as a commencement speaker for the Grade 6 graduates of Sitio Talaga Elementary School. (PDI, 4/3/06)

The letter-sender said that he was so moved by Eggie's account, because "it struck my heart deeply. I too was once a poor Grade 6 graduate from a remote school. Like [the Sitio Talaga graduates] I dreamed and hoped to abide by the almost similar sounding 'Panunumpa ng mga Nagsipagtapos' that you quoted in your article. Up to now, I still feel that I have been unable to contribute much to effect a meaningful, positive change in our society."

Mariano revealed that he came from very humble beginnings and surroundings. "We were so poor that I had to sell pan de sal early in the morning ... when I was 11 years old, and do odd jobs at the public market until I graduated from high school to help my parents."

One thing that struck me though was the fact that Leonardo's parents did not let poverty detract them from their desire to give Leonardo and his eight siblings the best education they could afford. Leonardo's father was a shoemaker while his mother was a full-time homemaker. Both parents did not have formal schooling. His mother learned to read and write by copying letters from old newspapers that she gathered whenever she had the chance to go to the town proper—this was quite because the family of Leonardo's mother "lived in the mountain." This made her act of parental selflessness so much more significant.

Leonardo's point is that "extreme poverty should not be a hindrance to getting a good education." In his case, he and his brothers and sisters worked their way through college. When the older siblings got jobs, they supported the younger ones until they graduated, too.

It may seem obvious to many of us that the well-educated are endowed with more opportunities. But it may come as a surprise to you that in a survey done by the World Bank recently, over 38 percent of the middle- to low-income respondent-households cited "lack of interest" when asked why their school-age children were not in school, despite the fact that basic education is free of charge in public schools.

Leonardo himself suggested that we try to find ways to educate parents from the lowest sector of our society on the value of a good education for their children. "In rural communities and other urban depressed areas, children are forced to work by their parents or by circumstances to help feed their family, thereby sacrificing the value of education in the process," said Leonardo.

The Education Revolution's battle cry is "Education is the best weapon against Poverty."

We embarked on this advocacy because we believe that a good education is the key to genuine social change.

Our Adopt-A-School Community Action and Mentoring the Mentors programs both aim to foster the emergence of true school communities where a mutually supportive relationship between the public school and the community it serves exists. The principal and teachers in a public school work hand in hand with the parents and other members of the community to make their pupils and students read, speak and think better.

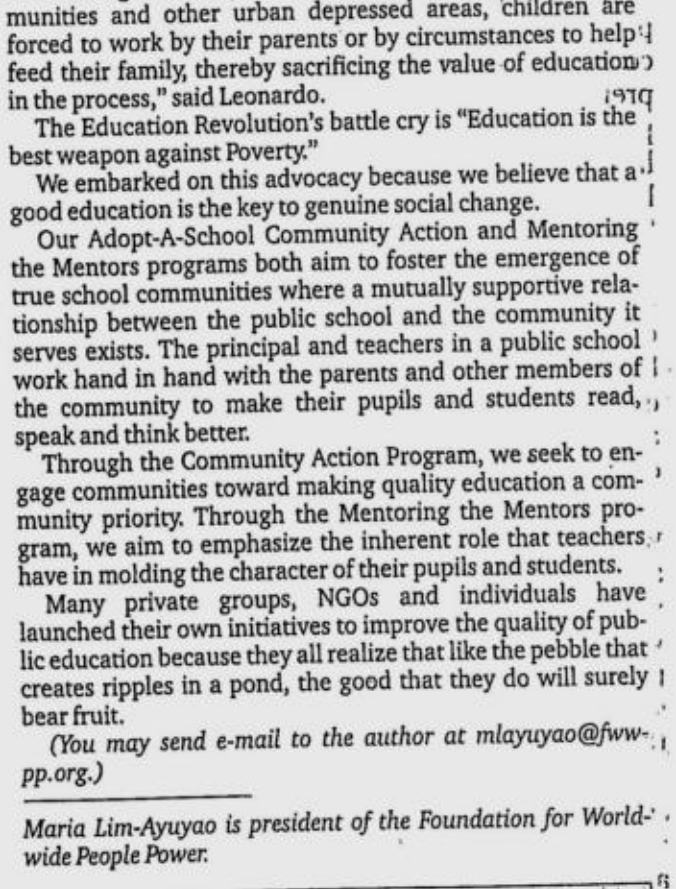
Through the Community Action Program, we seek to engage communities toward making quality education a community priority. Through the Mentoring the Mentors program, we aim to emphasize the inherent role that teachers have in molding the character of their pupils and students.

Many private groups, NGOs and individuals have launched their own initiatives to improve the quality of public education because they all realize that like the pebble that creates ripples in a pond, the good that they do will surely bear fruit.

*(You may send e-mail to the author at mlayuyao@fww-pp.org.)*

*Maria Lim-Ayuyao is president of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.*

IN THE NEWS



Ignacio Bunye

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# Disillusion in people power and need to stay the course

YOUR NEWSPAPER'S DECISION to print a column of former Czech President Vaclav Havel is well taken. (PDI, 3/28/06) Indeed, Havel is right in saying that euphoria is turning to disillusion in countries that have experienced people power revolution. It is happening in our own backyard where the original people power revolt occurred in 1986.

Czechoslovakia pioneered the color-coded revolution in the former communist nations of Eastern Europe with its own Velvet Revolution in 1989. This was followed later by Georgia's Rose Revolution and Ukraine's Orange Revolution.

Havel, a playwright and political dissident, became the main beneficiary of the revolution in his country when he was installed as president in December 1989. I had the honor of meeting him three times, the first when I presented to him my credentials as Philippine ambassador in June 1990, and the last time in November 1993 when I made my farewell call on him in Prague Castle. I will never forget the rare honor he bestowed upon me for that call. It was delayed by an hour so that I could pass through uniformed honor guards on my way to his inner sanctum. He impressed me as an unassuming man of towering intellect; in fact, he is regarded as one of the 20th century's great Europeans.

Havel experienced pain and suffering during his frequent imprisonment before achieving a triumph of the spirit. His political thoughts are embodied most notably in his "Letters to Olga," of which I have a copy. Olga was Havel's late wife and soul mate. These letters, written during his four years in prison, contained his profound thoughts on totalitarianism and dissent. It can be deduced from them that the true heroes of our time are those who stay the course. Havel became world renowned for his advocacy for "ethical, enlightened leadership."

As the saying goes, revolutions devour their own children. Therefore, people must be unwavering in their struggle with the demands, foibles, aches and pains of a free society, especially when there are deviations from accepted norms.

—JUANITO P. JARASA,
41 Mayaman St.,
UP Village, Diliman, QC

## Paging De Castro the journalist

I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE time when ABS-CBN's "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" was hosted by Noli de Castro, a local stalwart of investigative journalism and now the country's Vice President. The program eventually became very popular for exposing irregularities in government and espousing the truth. It remained so until after the 2004 national elections where De Castro won as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate under a cloud of controversy that persists to this day.

Now the Filipino people are asking: Does De Castro still have a bent for investigative journalism? Can his "investigative nose" smell the truth? Is he still against the evils of graft and corruption, government scams and human rights violations? A member of the Philippine Senate once, is he still proud of this noble and incorruptible institution?

Quite a number of Filipinos expect De Castro, even as a member of the Arroyo administration, to continue fighting for the truth and against irregularities in government. After all, he has shown himself to be an honorable and truthful journalist.

—JEREMIAS T. SANTIAGO,
1431 Reagan's Way,
Murrieta City, CA 92562

## PAL cares deeply for its employees

THIS REFERS TO THE COLUMN "From aviation to nursing" of Ceres P. Doyo, where she quoted one of her readers, Luchie Lopez, who was reacting to an earlier piece on the exodus of skilled manpower from the local aviation industry. (PDI, 4/6/06)

Lopez commented: "Since Lucio Tan took over (Philippine Airlines), the pilots have been demoralized, degraded... and treated like jeepney drivers. Mind you, that is exactly what Mr. Tan said some time ago, *'Bakit laki suweldo, driver lang naman?'* (Why the big pay when they are just drivers?)"

Please allow us to set the record straight, in the interest of accurate public information. The statement attributed to Dr. Tan is apocryphal; he never uttered those words. To the contrary, Dr. Tan's directives, as carried out by PAL management, have immensely benefited our pilot corps.

From 1999 to the present, PAL has given annual pay increases to all pilots, either in base pay or productivity pay, or both. Since 1999, our pilots' base pay has increased 35 percent, while productivity pay for those who have rendered at least 60 hours flying time has increased 161 percent. For those with less than 60 hours, the increase was 227 percent. Note that the gross monthly salary, plus allowances, of our captains now ranges from $4,000 to $7,000.

Also, may we point out that our pilots enjoy, among many other benefits, a medical plan for them and their families, that is among the most generous—if not the best—in the industry.

On another issue, Lopez wrote: "Domestic cabin crew are transferring (to other airlines)... because PAL now retires even the newly hired who turn 35 years old."

She got it all wrong. The age ceiling for retiring recently hired cabin crew is 40 years old, not 35. More importantly, this rule, which was adopted in 1999, was implemented with the consent of the cabin-crew union—it is, in fact, part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Our company cares deeply for all our employees, and it is our policy to provide them the best compensation and benefits package within our capacity to give, commensurate with their hard work and dedication to duty.

—ROLANDO G. ESTABILLO,
vice president,
Corporate Communications,
Philippine Airlines,
PO Box 1344, Makati City

## An insult to job-seekers without college degrees

THE INQUIRER'S MARCH 30 EDITORIAL ("Absolute power") implied that somebody without a college degree cannot handle high-level government, education-related work.

As a non-college graduate currently handling the education arm of a top IT company in the Philippines, I found the editorial absolutely ludicrous and downright ignorant. Would the INQUIRER question the ability and competence of the likes of Steve Jobs, Michael Dell and Bill Gates, to name a few, who are non-college graduates?

The editorial revealed the "diploma mentality" that hobbles this country in its march to progress. This fixation on that scrap of paper is one of the key reasons why our local industries are losing their best skilled workers to employers or skill-based jobs abroad.

The editorial only encouraged discrimination against non-college graduates and aggravated their despair. It was an insult to job-seeking Filipinos who do not have college degrees.

—JAIME GARCHITORENA,
jaimegarch@yahoo.com

## Epira: What's that? Tell me please

THE PASSAGE OF THE ELECTRIC Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), which was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo in June 2001, carried with it the promise that power rates would go down even before the introduction of competition because of the P0.30/kWh mandated reduction of Napocor (National Power Corp.) rates.

However, despite this discount, the rates soared. The increases started with the mandatory unbundling of rates, followed by the automatic adjustments in our monthly generation charge. All this showed that Epira failed the government's promise to serve the welfare of the electric power consumers.

Epira also failed to provide the appropriate budget for a sustained consumer education in the restructuring of the electricity industry through fora, seminars, workshops or roundtable discussions. Until such time that funds for the consumer education program shall have been allocated, we cannot hope to realize Epira's good intention.

The law specifies the duty to provide funds for such a program, but how that duty may be fulfilled is not defined. As a result, the majority of Filipino consumers are left to wonder how they can overcome the increasing cost of power.

For sometime, the consumers of Tarlac Electric Power Inc. have been groping in the dark, waiting for some light to illuminate their way into finding the facts behind the information blackout. Tarlac Electric Power Inc. seemed to have forgotten its obligation to educate its consumers.

So, the consumers, on their own, conducted the first Power Caucus. One of the guest speakers, Pete Ilagan, president of the National Association of Electricity Consumers (Nasecore) talked about Epira and Nasecore's stand on issues affecting consumer interests. His discussion was very educational and enlightening and showed his deep understanding of Epira.

We are grateful that there are organizations like Nasecore taking up the cudgels for consumer protection and empowerment. We hope that these organizations can help save Epira from becoming a total failure.

By the way, why isn't the government helping these groups?

—ABEL C. PABLO,
president, Central Luzon
Media Association (CLMA) Inc.,
casafuego@yahoo.com

## First step is removing evil if we want to change ourselves

IT'S SAD THAT THE FILIPINOS who want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo out are being pictured as non-taxpayers and power-grabbers. (PDI, 4/5/06) Some people may want GMA out for selfish reasons, but as a tax-paying, law-abiding citizen, I feel it is my responsibility to stand up against a usurper. After all, the taxes I pay are used to keep her in power.

While I do join protest actions, I pay my taxes on time. My views have never been bought or sold. I can also say the same of the majority of Filipinos who are working for real change; no, I do not mean Charter change which has been designed just to perpetuate those in power. I do my work the best I can, something that can't be said of the usurper. And no, the middle class is not wholly for GMA; only a few support her, and they are those who can stomach the rubbish she and her administration have been feeding the public.

GMA's continued stay in power has proven to be divisive, and increasingly so as time goes by. This is so because she does not have the electoral mandate. Only a few Filipinos believe that she won the presidency honestly; and many of those who support her try to justify her fraudulent "victory" by spouting such non-sequiturs as "the lesser evil," etc. But cheating is evil; and it is evil as well for us to justify it under "certain circumstances."

It is deplorable that while many of our countrymen preach that we should start changing ourselves and getting our act together, they can suffer, even support, the continued stay of the poster girl of corruption in Malacañang. Such hypocrisy can only be expected of those who seek to preserve the status quo of oligarchy in the country.

If we must change ourselves, we must start by removing "evil" as an acceptable leadership trait.

—JONAR SABILANO,
jonar.sabilano@gmail.com

## Doles will not lead to genuine peace

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS ITEM "DONORS pledge more aid for Mindanao." (PDI, 4/1/06) The donor agencies, including the World Bank, must now realize that genuine peace can never be attained through aid and donations.

Insurgency has persisted from generation to generation in our country because of deep-rooted, unjust social structures. In a country where not a single elected, military or police official sponsoring the Mindanao wars can be held accountable, even insurgency becomes an attractive solution. Former President Estrada is in jail but not for the deaths and tremendous damage he caused in Mindanao with his all-out-war in 2000. Former AFP chief Angelo Reyes, who directed the assault on Camp Abubakar in 2000 and Buliok in 2003 is still with the government as environment secretary. President Macapagal-Arroyo has not been held accountable for the 2003 Buliok war.

Why should our chief executives, secretaries and military officials be different from other Asian dictators who have been prosecuted for crimes against humanity?

And why, despite the many billions of pesos already spent for the rehabilitation and development of Mindanao, peace remains fragile, if not elusive? Is it worth to pour in more funds for the same failed programs? I appeal to the donor agencies to reflect on these questions.

Those responsible for the wars should be prosecuted and brought to justice. This will protect the people of Mindanao from warmongers who want to lead us. Until then, no development or rehabilitation efforts in Mindanao will lead to genuine peace. They will only open more opportunities for corruption.

—DANILO A. REYES,
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## *Across the* NATION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

# MILF, MNLF start reunification talks

COTABATO CITY—A NEW EFFORT TOWARD the reunification of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) started in Maguindanao on Saturday.

The MILF was formed after Salamat Hashim broke away from the MNLF in the early 1980s over disagreements in the way MNLF chair Nur Misuari was handling the peace talks with the Marcos regime.

Hashim, a graduate of Islamic Studies at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, managed to convince a large number of MNLF leaders to abandon Misuari and form the MILF calling for a separate Islamic state.

The MNLF eventually signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996. The MILF is still talking peace with the government under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Previous efforts to reunite the two factions had failed even with a visit by Misuari to the MILF's Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao.

During that visit, Misuari and Hashim talked for several hours, but the MILF leader rejected his unity proposal.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said prospects were bright for a unified Moro group, at least politically.

"The possibility of reunification is very eminent. We are all brothers with a common agenda for the welfare of the Bangsamoro people," Kabalu said.

He said about 80 leaders from the MNLF and the MILF started discussions at the MILF office in Sultan Kudarat town.

Leading the 40-member MNLF panel were Jain Zali, chair of the MNLF Bangsamoro People's Congress, Abdurahman Jamasali, a nephew of Misuari, and Dr. Bashir Ali, secretary general of the Bangsamoro People's Congress, he said.

The group, he said, met behind closed-doors with MILF political affairs chief Ghazali Jaafar, MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal and some members of the MILF Central Committee.

Kabalu said the discussions also touched on the health condition of Misuari and the call for his immediate release from detention.

Misuari is being held for the 2002 Zamboanga and Jolo uprising staged by his followers. Dozens of people were killed during the rebellion. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

## *Rare fish cultured by BFAR*

DAGUPAN CITY—THE ONLY LIVE *LUDONG* (*Cestreaus plicatilis*) in captivity at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources research center here finally has company as some 40 fingerlings of the rare fish are starting to be cultured at the BFAR facility.

THE PRESIDENT'S fish
RAY B. ZAMBRANO

*Ludong*, known as "president's fish" being the most expensive fish sold in the country at about P4,000 a kilogram, is very rare and elusive and is known for its unique taste.

Westly Rosario, BFAR interim executive director and the research center's chief, said the *ludong* and the 40 fingerlings donated by Dr. Lino Edralin Lim in January were undergoing morphological identification (recording of physical traits) and would be subjected to DNA fingerprinting.

Hotel owner Rosario said Lim, a native of Aparri, Cagayan, had been collecting *ludong*.

The first *ludong* in captivity (about 1.5 kg) was caught in the Cagayan River in Aparri town five years ago. The fish is one of the attractions of the BFAR research center here.

"We have no *ludong* DNA profile and morphology yet, and we are undertaking this project so we will have [records to consult] to find out if a captured fish, which looks like a *ludong*, is the real thing," Rosario said.

BFAR scientists suspect that there are more than one species of *ludong* in the country's waters, he said.

Rosario said that without a DNA profile, fishermen and researchers only "guessed" if the fish they had caught was *ludong*, an indigenous fish in the Philippines found in the rivers of the Caraballo, Cordillera and the Sierra Madre mountains.

Rosario said information gathered from fish vendors in Cagayan showed that the volume of *ludong* catch and the size of the fish were decreasing yearly. ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

## 9 small mining financiers in T'boli charged

KORONADAL CITY—THE PROVINCIAL Mining and Regulatory Board (PMRB) said it filed charges against at least nine financiers of illegal small-scale mining in T'boli town.

PMRB secretary Lourdes Jumilla did not identify the financiers, but said the decision to file the charges came after the financiers repeatedly ignored orders banning mining in the gold rush area of Barangay Kematu.

Earlier, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau warned of a disaster if sluice mining continued in Kematu.

Sluice mining uses a long wooden box without a top. The box sits on a slope. Cleats are then placed at the bottom of the box to catch the gold. This process usually requires several men but is more efficient than pan mining.

The MGB warning came after a survey of the area, which led to the discovery of a three-meter crack in Mt. Kematu.

The crack, the bureau said, could trigger landslides that would endanger the lives of residents of others areas.

The MGB findings prompted the provincial government to order a ban on mining in the area.

At least 5,000 mine workers lost their means of livelihood when the order was implemented, but Gov. Daisy Fuentes said they could always find alternative jobs.

Jumilla said miners who resisted the orders faced charges of "theft of mineral" before the provincial prosecutor's office. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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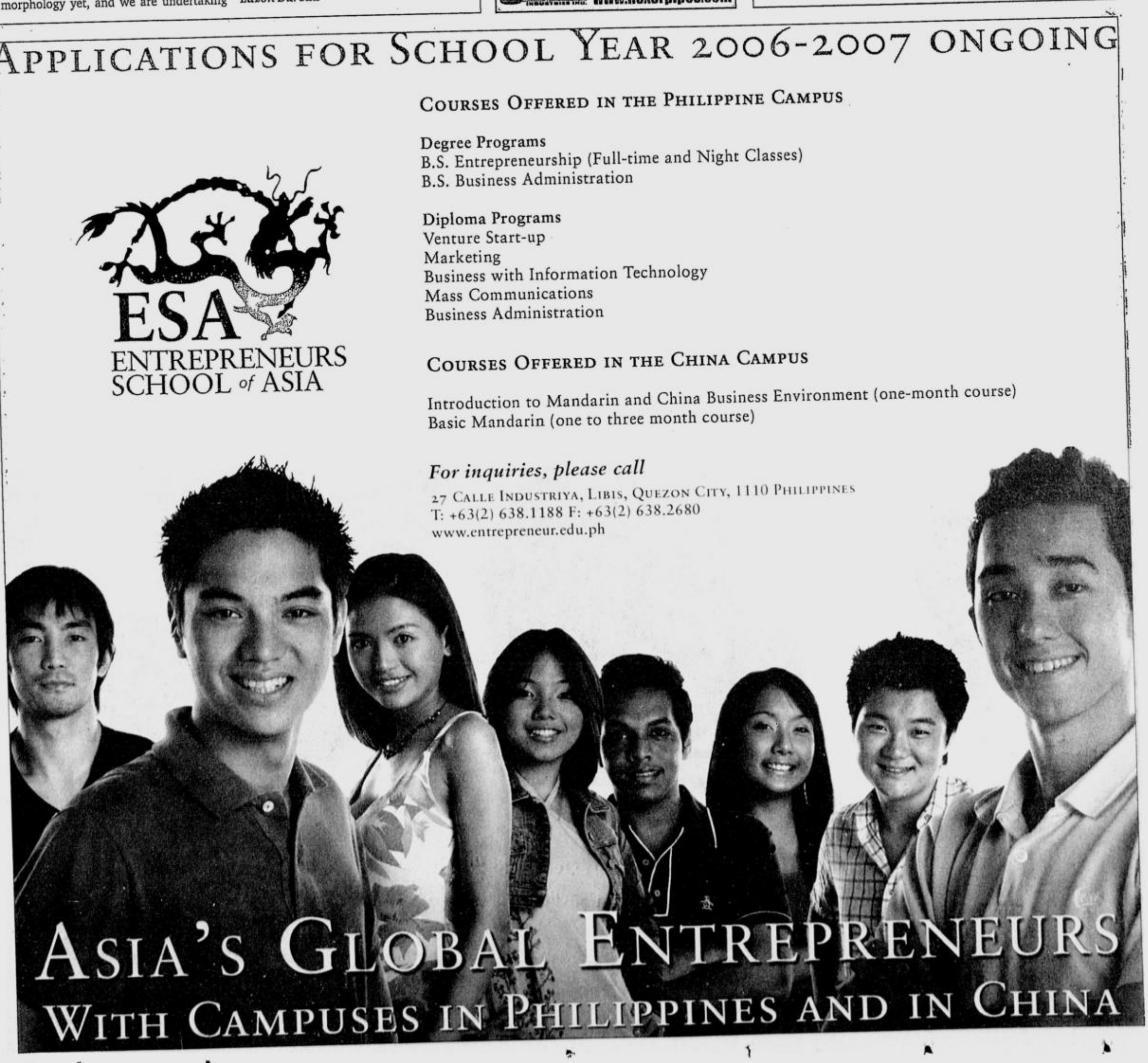

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# Mudslide survivors to get housing units from Gawad Kalinga

By Jani Arnaiz
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—Restless for almost two months, survivors of the Guinsaugon mudslides can heave a sigh of relief after the first stone was cast on Palm Sunday for the first 100 housing units at a 5.6-hectare relocation site in Barangay Magbagakay, this town.

The units are part of the 200 houses that the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) pledged through the Gawad Kalinga (GK) program.

The Philippine National Red Cross will build 102 more units at the site for the other survivors and relatives of the victims.

About 1,000 people were killed when a portion of Mt. Kanabag buried the entire village of Guinsaugon on Feb. 17.

At the groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 9, GK executive director Antonio Meloto said that although his group had yet to receive money from the FCCC, it proceeded with the construction as a "challenge" to the FCCC to make good its pledges."

He said the program had not yet encountered any problem of where to get the construction materials. Many businessmen who wanted to help the victims have extended credit to the group, he said.

He said the 100 units would be finished in a month.

Gov. Rosette Lerias, who attended the groundbreaking ceremony, said a holistic community would stand in the site.

"This includes a livelihood component, food production, health and environment and other amenities of a complete community," she told the INQUIRER.

Lerias said P9.2 million had been spent to develop the site, including leveling the field, making roads and preparing areas for a school building, day care center, health center, barangay hall and playground.

An evacuation center will be built "for any eventuality," she said.

Water and drainage systems, and electricity supply will soon be installed at the site, Lerias said.

Meloto said the Gawad Kalinga, which has been a partner of the province since the 2003 landslide that killed more than 150 on Panaon Island, would continue to help Southern Leyte not only in housing but also in food production.

"The strong partnership of Governor Lerias and Congressman (Roger) Mercado since 2003 has helped in the success of GK projects in the province. For this alone, we are happy to stay on and focus more on the needs of the province," he said.

Meloto announced that a seven-day "GK Bayanihan Challenge," a competition among peers or groups who could build a beautiful unit at the shortest time at the Guinsaugon relocation site, would be launched on April 25.

The contest is like the popular TV show "Extra Challenge," he said. Each group will be given materials for one housing unit and those who can finish a beautiful house in the shortest time will win cash prizes.

The participants will take care of their own provisions and other needs, and a number of corporations in Manila have already agreed to participate, Meloto said.

# Iloilo fire survivors appeal for food, clothing donations

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—SURVIVORS OF the biggest fire to hit the city in recent years are appealing for food, clothing and other donations.

"We have nothing left. We only have the clothes on our back," said 59-year-old Lorna Munoz. "We have nowhere to go and we don't know how to start again."

Munoz is among the evacuees who have sought refuge at the Baluarte Elementary School after a two-hour blaze razed a slum community in Barangay North Baluarte in Molo District here on April 10.

The fire was believed to have started in Zone 3, one of three areas in the barangay near the Iloilo International Fishing Port.

The city's Bureau of Fire Protection said 270 houses were destroyed and 17 others were damaged, citing reports as of 2 p.m. on April 10.

Fire Officer 1 Ian Clavin placed the damage at P7 million.

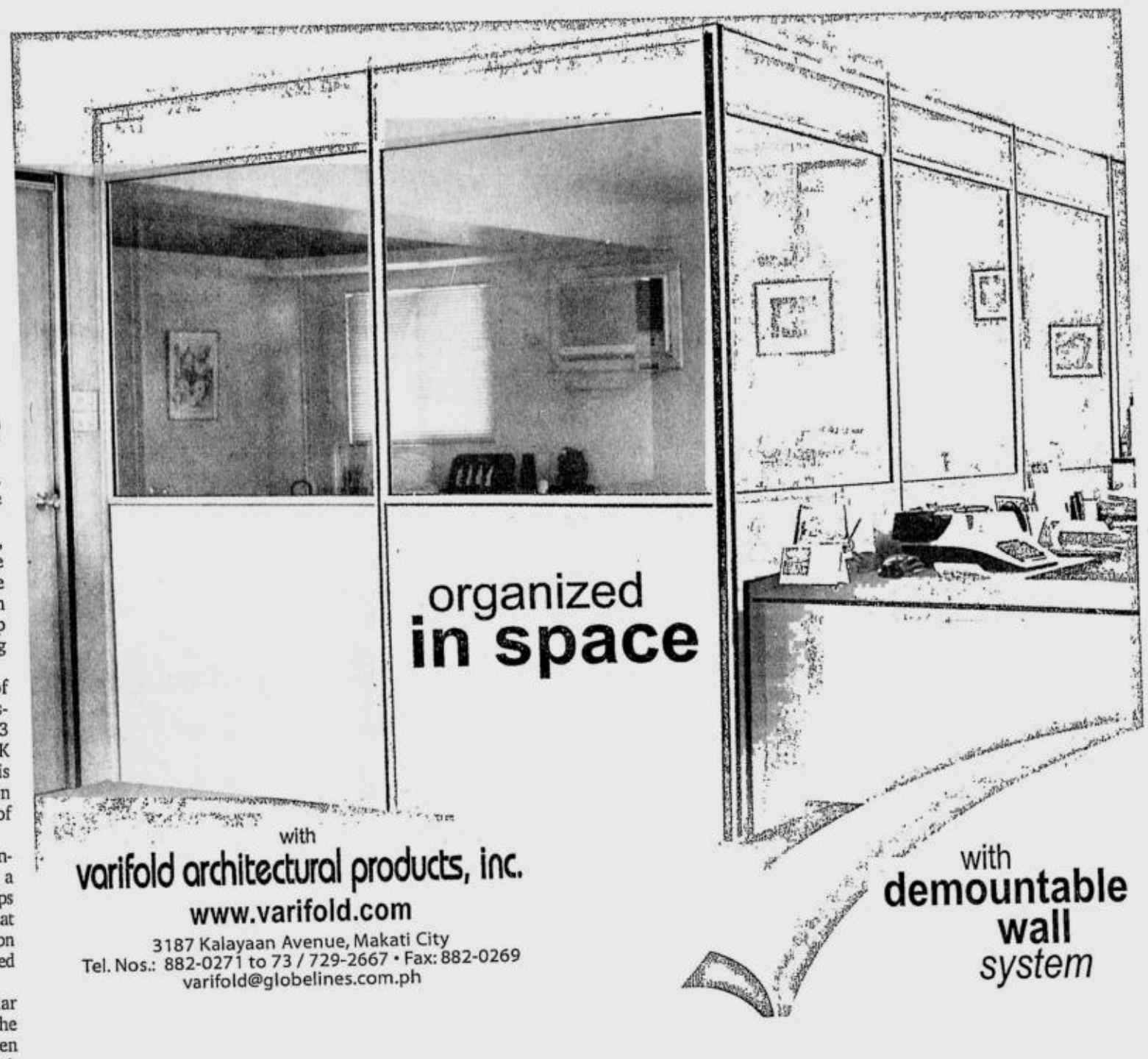
The fire started at about 4:15 p.m. and was controlled at 6:30 p.m., or about two hours later, said Clavin.

Firefighters had difficulty putting out the blaze because of the narrow roads in the community and strong winds that fanned the fire.

Clavin said the cause of the fire was still being determined. Barangay chair Emilio Locsin said residents saw two children of a resident, Victoria Bustamante, playing with matches before the fire razed their house and rapidly spread to adjoining houses.

The City Social Welfare and Development Office said at least 310 families or 1,550 persons were displaced. The number could still rise because not all of the victims have been identified.

Most of the victims are unemployed. Some are pedicab or jeepney drivers, while others worked at the fishing port.



# More 'hot' logs seized from mayor's pond

DAVAO CITY—THE NATIONAL ANTI-Environmental Crime Task Force (Naectaf) seized more illegally cut logs from a property owned by Mayor Roberto Luna Jr. of Lingig, Surigao del Sur during a raid on April 12.

Samuel Danganan, task force director for operations, said more than 2,000 logs were retrieved from the coastal village of Hinipaan, also in Lingig.

The seizure brought to 11,500 the number of logs taken from the mayor's property, according to Danganan.

On April 9, some 9,000 illegally cut logs were found in a resort owned by the mayor in Lingig.

It was one of the biggest, according to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, as the government stepped up efforts to curb illegal logging.

Reyes described the illegal logging activity as a serious form of environmental terrorism.

Danganan said the April 12 raid was conducted following a tip that Luna was maintaining another area where the illegal logs were placed.

"When we seized the logs, the mayor got angry at us," he said.

Naectaf legal chief Reynante Orceo said charges were now being prepared against Luna.

Danganan said the mayor was complaining that he was being singled out.

"If you're going to apprehend me, I'm gonna be angry. You're singling me out," he quoted the mayor as saying.

**THESE LOGS, said to be illegally harvested, were seized from the resort and backyard pond owned by Lingig, Surigao del Sur Mayor Roberto Luna Jr.** DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Luna denied owning the logs. He said he was just helping investors.

Danganan said the involvement of "high-profile personalities and politicians" in the illegal logging activity in Caraga was hindering local environment officials from enforcing forest laws.

"Local DENR officials often are in a predicament on whether to report, apprehend or seize illegal logs and file charges against its owners and operators [because of the status of those involved]," Danganan said.

He said that because of this, some local environment officials had been recommended for relief. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Quezon town mayor, DENR exec deny illegal logging raps

LUCENA CITY—GENERAL NAKAR Mayor Leovigildo Ruzol has strongly denied involvement in any shady logging deals during his past administration.

"My constituents can all attest [to the fact] that I had never been involved in illegal logging, not even a single toothpick," Ruzol told the INQUIRER over the phone.

He called his accuser, Walternito Palasan, a "tribal leader pretender" who is allegedly using the Dumagat community to serve his own interest.

In his complaint before the Ombudsman, Palasan said Ruzol and former municipal administrator Fuillermo M. Sabiduria, had issued spurious permits to transport illegally cut logs between 2001 and 2004 during Ruzol's term of office.

On April 3, the Ombudsman filed the charges in the Sandiganbayan against Ruzol, Sabiduria and 13 others, including two officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ruzol recalled that during his past term, Palasan came to his office and asked that the local government acknowledge him as the tribal leader of the Dumagat.

"Apparently, he wanted to gain access to the rich source of logs inside the ancestral domain of the tribe," said Ruzol.

The mayor said he turned down Palasan's request.

"We found out from the NCIP (National Commission on Indigenous Peoples) that he's not a true tribal leader," the mayor said.

Ruzol said Palasan was being used by former General Nakar Mayor Hernando Avellaneda, whom he dislodged last year after a bitter electoral protest.

"Palasan is being used by my political opponent to get back at me. Avellaneda was the illegal logger, not me," he said.

Avellaneda is also facing charges of illegal logging after then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor accused him of involvement in logging activities a few months after killer flash floods and landslides struck the area in 2004.

Former DENR Northern Luzon chief Federico Ocampo, who is now assigned in Pampanga, has also denied involvement in illegal logging activities during his 14-month stay in Real, Quezon.

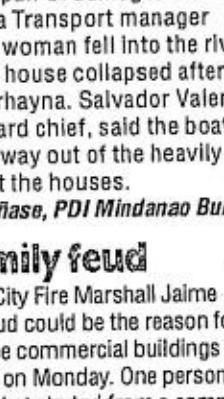
He called Palasan a "professional tribal leader con artist."

"He once came to my office and introduced himself as a Dumagat tribe leader and asked for my immediate action to his request to transport questionable logs. I turned him down," Ocampo said over the phone.

He added: "Later, I found that Palasan was a fake tribal leader. He's very well known as an impostor among tribal communities as far as Mindanao. Now, he's trying to get back at me." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Pirates attack fishers



DIGOS CITY—Pirates continue to be among the biggest problems of fishermen of Davao del Sur. Recently, the pirates attacked another fishing boat off the coast of Sarangani town and took at least P200,000 worth of personal items and engines. Danilo Dimo, skipper of the MV Searis and resident of Glan, Sarangani province, told police that at least eight pirates attacked them at about 8 p.m. on April 5 while they were about to dock in the town. Dimo said they considered themselves lucky because unlike what the pirates did to previous victims, they were not told to jump into the sea. *Eldie Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Ship firm's pledge

COTABATO CITY—The management of a shipping firm here vowed to shoulder the cost of hospitalization of a woman, who was injured when one of its launches rammed two houses along the Rio Grande de Mindanao on Saturday night. "We will take charge of the woman's hospitalization and repair of damages caused by the accident," Nora Transport manager Sahid Daud said. The woman fell into the river when a portion of her house collapsed after it was hit by the ML Norhayna. Salvador Valenzuela, local Coast Guard chief, said the boat was maneuvering its way out of the heavily silted river when it hit the houses. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Fire from family feud

ZAMBOANGA CITY—City Fire Marshall Jaime Ramirez said family feud could be the reason for the fire that struck three commercial buildings in Barangay Curuan here on Monday. One person was injured in the fire that started from a commercial establishment owned by the Pio Tabar family. "The motive was arson," Ramirez said. Damage to property was placed at P3 million. In Isabela City in Basilan, a fire razed a warehouse on Monday night. But Chris Puno, spokesperson of the provincial government, said investigators suspected that faulty electrical wiring triggered the fire. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Hospital fire clarified

THE BATANGAS Regional Hospital has clarified that the fire, which was stated in the INQUIRER story to have occurred for 25 minutes on April 8, lasted for about 15 minutes, and that Nonato Collat, a registered (not resident) medical technologist, had not left the laboratory "to apparently get his lunch" when the fire occurred. Collat said he decided to help a co-worker at the Blood Bank section, which was busy at that time, and neglected to attend to his primary duty of heating the paraffin blocks that caused the fire. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### 200 civil defense volunteers

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 200 civil defense volunteers (CDVs) are being recruited in Albay by the regional Office of Civil Defense (OCD) to help ensure public safety and civilian protection in disaster-prone areas in Bicol.

OCD Bicol director Arnel Capili said the CDVs would undergo a one-month training on disaster preparedness and response. Capili said part of the activities would be K9 training for ordinary pets so they could help in rescue operations. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### 3 fishermen nabbed

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Police caught three fishermen collecting very tiny fish along the shore of the Laguna de Bay in Barangay Sto. Angel here on April 5. Police said the suspects, all of Barangay Banilan, Pakil town, were using unauthorized fishing gear. Confiscated from them were one banca, one fish net, one 25-kilo chain and assorted small fish or fry. The suspects could be charged with violation of the Anti-Illegal Fishing law. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Family planning 'Kapihan'

LEGAZPI CITY—A series of "Kapihan on Family Planning" was launched here on April 5 by the Commission on Population (PopCom) and the Bicol Integrated Reproductive Health Alliance with the local tri-media to generate support for family planning in the region. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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# Filipino Bible expert assails 'Da Vinci'

From page A1

Sacred Scripture at the prestigious Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise in Jerusalem.

A native of Aklan, the Dominican priest also studied Arabic at the American University of Cairo, and Islamology at the Institut Dominicain d'Etudes Orientale, also in the Egyptian capital.

Simply put, Cortes knows his turf. He says that "The Da Vinci Code" and its film version are rife with inaccuracies, if not outright falsehoods.

"I'm just concerned about the truth," he told the INQUIRER in an interview, noting that the movie starring Oscar winner Tom Hanks also had the teaser "seek the truth."

### Lean and mean

Cortes said he wanted to help equip the ordinary Catholic with "the truth" about his 2,000-year-old faith, much like a soldier naturally needing weapons in a battlefield.

Cortes' review comprises only 131 pages. But it's thick with details assailing with scholastic clarity all of Brown's serious and seemingly convincing claims—from the divinity of Jesus Christ, the real role of Mary Magdalene in His life and the Catholic Church, to the supposedly hidden message of Leonardo Da Vinci's paintings.

Cortes said his effort was prompted by questions on the Brown opus by a student to a UST theology professor. So there will be no difficulty getting his message across, he kept his book "lean and mean."

"Some people are confused; some are easily swayed," he admitted. "But there are also good Catholics who know that the book is full of lies. But they don't know how to respond to it intellectually—with facts."

Cortes, a biblical "exegete" or one who studies and interprets the Holy Scripture, attacks The Da Vinci Code on three fronts—literary, historical and theological perspectives.

### Incongruities

While finding the novel's plot "suspensefully fascinating," Cortes outlines a host of "incongruities and somewhat illogical sequences compared with occurrences in real life which a good novelist, writing a historical novel, should try to avoid so as not to insult the intelligence of the reader."

"These obvious factual errors cannot qualify Brown as a serious researcher," he writes. "But his alluring, suspenseful style can be dangerous. It can lead unwary minds to intellectual pitfalls." He quotes a Latin proverb that says "in the kingdom of the blind reigns the cross-eyed."

For one, he says, Brown uses "Da Vinci" as though it were Leonardo's surname. Leonardo, legitimate historians know long ago, is always referred to as Leonardo.

The Priory of Sion, portrayed in the novel as protectors of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene's French bloodline, was a product of the fertile imagination of Pierre Plantard who made news in Europe in the 1950s for claiming he was a descendant, says Cortes.

Cortes points out that the scenario is merely drawn by Brown from books such as the "Holy Blood, Holy Grail," a 1982 "nonfiction" work criticized by historians as a sham long ago.

### Priory of Sion an NGO

He says the so-called Priory of Sion was a "nongovernment organization" put up in 1956 by Plantard for a political objective.

"This organization was disbanded the following year with the imprisonment of Plantard who was convicted of 'corruption of minors,'" he writes.

Worse, a collaborator of Plantard once confessed to "planting" the fictitious "Dossiers Secrets of Henri Lobineau" at the Paris National Library, which floated the idea of the Jesus-Magdalene bloodline through the Merovingian Dynasty in France, says Cortes.

He says the confession was made by Phillip de Cherisey after he had a falling out with Plantard and Gerard de Sede over shares of the sale of their book "L'Or de Rennes" about the supposedly unbroken dynasty.

But, more importantly, was Christ's divinity merely the result of a vote at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD?

"The faith in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, co-substantial with the Father (Yahweh), has been part of the Christian conviction since the beginning," Cortes writes. He notes that the affirmation was clearly in the prologue of the Gospel of St. John at the beginning of the second century.

"Anybody who states that the divinity of Christ was only declared in the Council of Nicaea is indeed pitiable because that person still remains inside the prison of his ignorance," Cortes avers.

Brown's assertions that the Church degraded women and suppressed the "sacred feminine" by hiding Mary Magdalene's true role were "creations of the imagination," says Cortes.

In reality, he says, the sacred feminine was embodied in the Blessed Virgin Mary who was given higher veneration (hyperdulia) than a saint.

### Let reality guide faithful

Other experts like Olson and Miesel say the issue of Mary Magdalene's supposed suppression can easily be settled if only people realize her vital role as related in the Bible—that she was there at the tomb when an angel announced the resurrection of Christ.

Having discussed the "truth" behind Brown's allegations, Cortes told the INQUIRER that the final verdict should be left to the public.

"Let the reader and movie audience enjoy the thrill of the chase and suspense," he writes in his book.

"But let the objective reality about God and His communication to mankind remain intact to guide every soul toward one's final destiny."

# Pope seeks . . .

From page A1

"May the international community, which reaffirms Israel's just right to exist in peace, assist the Palestinian people to overcome the precarious conditions in which they live and to build their future, moving toward the constitution of a state which is truly their own."

The international community has insisted that the new Hamas government of the Palestinians renounce terrorism and recognize Israel's right to exist.

### Iran crisis

In another part of his speech, Benedict appeared to be referring to recent developments in Iran that have caused concern in the West that the Islamic state might be working toward developing a nuclear arsenal.

"Concerning the international crises linked to nuclear power, may an honorable solution be found for all parties, through serious and honest negotiations," Benedict said, although he did not name any countries.

Concern over North Korea's nuclear capabilities have also contributed to tensions in Asia.

Benedict also called on leaders of nations and international organizations to work for peaceful coexistence among races, cultures and religions "to remove the threat of terrorism."

The Pope's concerns extended to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan's Darfur region and conflicts in other parts of Africa. He said better living conditions were needed for millions of people in Latin America and democratic institutions in the region had to be "consolidated in a spirit of harmony and effective solidarity."

As Mass began, a brisk breeze ruffled the Pope's gold-colored vestments and the crimson feathers atop the helmets of Swiss Guards as he strode up the center to the square to take his place at a canopied altar.

When the faithful read out prayers during Mass, a French-speaking woman offered the Pope a birthday wish that he receive peace and the comfort of "serene" days.

In closing, Benedict wished the faithful a joyous holiday in 62 languages and, in particular, thanked the Netherlands for sending flowers that decorated the square.

The Pope's wishes in Italian referred to Italy's political stalemate that was triggered by the refusal of conservative Premier Silvio Berlusconi to concede defeat in the April 9-10 voting to his center-left rival Romano Prodi following months of a bitter election campaign.

"In the particular moment that Italy has been living through in these months, may the risen Lord bring serenity to the national community and strengthen those who work to serve it the strong desire to pursue aims of harmony and authentic development for the good of all," Benedict said.

Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II, died six days after Easter last year. During the final stage of his illness, John Paul was so weak that he was unable to address the faithful in the square on Easter. He only raised his hand in blessing.

Even before the Pope's speech, Church bells rang out across Asia as millions of Christians packed churches from the Philippines—the largest Catholic nation in Asia—to communist Vietnam and China, where some worshippers prayed in hiding for fear of official persecution. *AP, AFP*


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# Crime victims shocked, but bishops, rights groups pleased

From page A1

death sentences had left crime victims and their relatives "hurting."

He lamented that the administration did not even consult with the VACC before making the move.

Jimenez also said that because she had made no exception to the commutation, Ms Arroyo acted as if she were "the judiciary and the legislature."

Another anticrime group, the Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order (MRPO), said in a statement that because Republic Act No. 7659 (the Death Penalty Law) had not been repealed, "President Arroyo is the last person we expect not to respect the law and to just disregard it."

MRPO founding chair Teresita Ang-See said the "wholesale disregard of the law that exists was really ill-advised."

She said kidnap victims had called her to express surprise and dismay at Ms Arroyo's decision.

Human rights groups withheld their praise, saying in effect that all words and no law made an uncertain pronouncement.

The Mamamayang Tutol sa Bitay (MTB), a network of 100 human rights groups, religious organizations and lawmakers against the death penalty, called on Ms Arroyo to certify as urgent a consolidated bill in Congress repealing RA 7659. *(See related story on front page.)*

"While we are pleased with this decision of the President ... human rights advocates strongly urge her to make a more decisive move by calling on Congress to pass the consolidated antideath penalty bill ... before the end of the second regular session to put more teeth to her pronouncement," MTB spokesperson Nymia Pimentel Simbulan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"That is one of the most concrete indicators of her seriousness," Simbulan said, adding that this would ensure Ms Arroyo would not again waver in the face of "pressure from relatively influential groups ... during election time."

Simbulan, who is also the executive director of the Philippine Human Rights Information Center, cited Ms Arroyo's commitment to the Chinese-Filipino community to execute death row inmates convicted of kidnapping and drug trafficking amid a moratorium on executions in 2004, an election year.

## Political move

"It's a sincere move [but] it's very difficult to work on an oral declaration because there is a law. Mere declaration will not hold water. This must translate to an executive order or an urgent bill for the abolition [of the death penalty]," said Simbulan.

Human rights lawyer Soliman Santos Jr. said the President's decision was a political move intended to appease the Catholic Church, which has opposed the government-backed signature campaign to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative.

"There's also the political aspect [that this was meant] to court the Catholic bishops, and she even timed it for Easter," said Santos, who represents the "Abadilla 5," a group of five men sentenced to death for the 1996 killing of martial law intelligence officer Col. Rolando Abadilla.

Abadilla 5 convict Lenido "Len" Lumanog hailed the President's decision and expressed hope that capital punishment would finally be abolished.

Santos also welcomed the decision, saying it was "a positive development from the point of view of human rights."

"But still," he added, "that is not [as good as] the abolition of the death penalty."

He said the commutation would not stop the lower courts from handing out death sentences and the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court from upholding death convictions.

"[RA 7659] is still there, so it's part of the job of the judiciary to continue [the application of the law]," Santos said.

But if the President really meant to please the bishops, "she did well," Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles told the INQUIRER.

Said Bishop Leonardo Medroso of Borongan, Samar: "The act itself of commuting the death sentences is laudable."

The two prelates, both of them outspoken critics of administration policies, did not seem to mind even if critics of Ms Arroyo and sectors pushing for capital punishment protested the move.

"The decision must not be used politically," Arguelles said, noting that Ms Arroyo was "consistent in her prolife stance."

"I'm really not aware of other motives and I do not presume to impute [such motives]," said Medroso, one of several bishops attacking the administration's mining policy and demanding a repeal of the Mining Act of 1995.

Days before the President announced her surprising decision, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued a pastoral statement criticizing the Malacañang-backed signature campaign for Charter change.

Arguelles warned Ms Arroyo against ignoring the statement; saying she would risk the possibility of the CBCP distancing itself from her.

"She needs the CBCP, especially its silence," Arguelles had told the INQUIRER.

## Like clemency

Santos said the commutation applied only to those whose death convictions had been affirmed by the Supreme Court, which automatically reviewed death sentences handed out by lower courts.

"Ordinarily, commutation comes when the death conviction is final. It's like [a grant of] presidential clemency," he said adding:

"What will happen to those whose convictions will be made final after [this presidential commutation]? They will have to be covered by another presidential declaration."

The Abadilla 5's death sentence is still up for review by the Court of Appeals. They are among the 1,205 convicts on death row at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

Santos said the "best thing" for his clients was "still vindication by acquittal."

"As far as we are concerned, we'll still go for a reversal of the conviction," he said.

The Free Legal Asistance Group also said the President should clarify the coverage of the commutation because the 1987 Constitution was very specific on those eligible for a reduction of sentence.

Article 7, Section 19 of the Constitution states that the President may grant a reprieve or pardon, or commute a sentence only after conviction by final judgment, FLAG secretary general Socorro Diokno said in a phone interview.

Only 101 of the more than 1,000 inmates on death row have had their sentences affirmed by the Supreme Court, according to FLAG.

FLAG, which has been giving legal aid to at least 51 poor death row inmates, said the President's announcement at least gave temporary assurance to those who may have been wrongfully convicted under "a flawed justice system."

Citing the Supreme Court decision on People v Mateo in July 2003, Diokno said the regional trial courts had an error rate of 71.77 percent in imposing the death penalty.

The Supreme Court based its admission on 907 death penalty cases it had reviewed, of which 26 were dismissed, 555 modified, 65 acquitted, 31 remanded and 230 affirmed.

"That's a high error rate, which means seven of ten death penalty cases don't deserve the death penalty," Diokno said.

## Meeting at Palace

Last month, Chinese-Filipino businessmen and advisers of an anticrime unit met with Ms Arroyo and reported to her the resurgence of kidnapping cases.

They also urged her to set an "example" to kidnap gangs, meaning to implement the death penalty on kidnappers whose conviction and sentence had been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

At the time of the meeting, said the MRPO's Ang-See, the country was entering one of its worst weeks of kidnapping.

But those who went to the meeting quoted Ms Arroyo as saying that even without the death penalty, "the problem of KFR (kidnapping for ransom) has been solved," according to Ang-See, who was not invited to the gathering.

She said one of those present rose to tell Ms Arroyo what was actually happening.

"The [President's] announcement is not only ill-advised but also comes at a very bad time because of the recent resurgence of KFR cases, averaging at least one incident a week. There were even weeks when we had two or three incidents," the MRPO said in a statement faxed to media offices.

By noon yesterday, it had been signed by at least 12 kidnap victims.

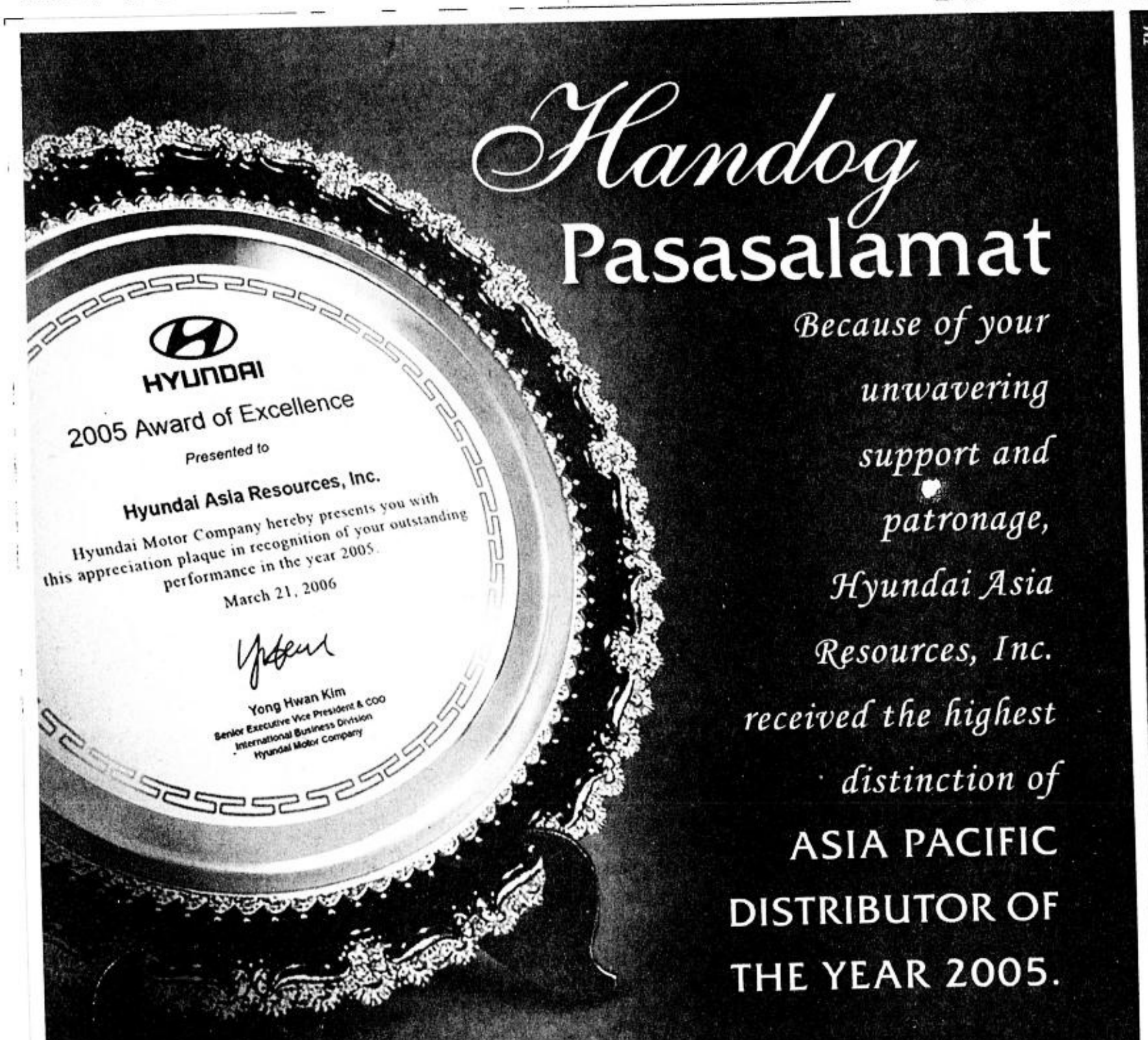
"While the President gave hardened criminals as a political gesture this Easter, she has not given any consideration at all to victims of terrorism, kidnapping, murder, carjacking, drug pushing, and other heinous crimes," the statement said.

Former President Fidel Ramos said he hoped Ms Arroyo and her advisers had thoroughly studied the matter.

"Let us make sure that all the implications, considering the history of the Death Penalty Law in our country, have all been properly considered, assessed and evaluated because there is now international terrorism around the world," Ramos said in a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, from where he was to fly to Bali to attend the third meeting of the Asean Eminent Persons Group.

It was Ramos who signed RA 7659 into law in December 1993. It took effect in 1994.

*With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Nikko Dizon*

# Kidnap victim's pa tells GMA: Think again

*THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT from Roger Yu, whose son, Kenshi, was kidnapped on Feb. 9, 2005, with a ransom demand of P250 million:*

"To say the least, our life was never the same again. I'm glad that my son was rescued unharmed, which [allowed] us to come out in the open and file a case against the kidnappers, which is rare for victims.

"Kidnapping is a high-gain, low-risk business for criminals because eight out of 10 victims are afraid to file [charges]. I believe the Philippines now holds the title 'Kidnap Capital of Asia.'

"If President Macapagal-Arroyo thinks commuting death sentences to life imprisonment is the solution to kidnapping, I urge her to think again.

"I know she wants to change our form of government to the parliamentary system, but does she have to bend the law in order to get the support of the Church? What happened to the saying 'The law applies to all, rich or poor'?

"I try my very best to stir clear of political rumors, but if she thinks that she is above the law and that she is the law, maybe the rumors of politicians benefiting from kidnapping are true, after all.

"For the record, it was only our case that involved an ex-congressman, who was captured and [subsequently charged]. This type of case is supposed to be a milestone in terms of the good fighting back and the bad being captured.

"But the President's son came [forward] and gave statements in behalf of the accused. And [the usual practice] of a rescued victim [visiting] Malacañang to show that the President supports the victim's family never happened to us.

"I put all this behind us and think that the President was just too busy doing her work for the betterment of our country, and that her son just made an honest mistake. I'm not here to dictate on what she should and should not do.

"But all I ask of her is that if there is a law, [it should be implemented] to be fair to everybody. The Church should be separate from the State, and the State should not do favors in behalf of the Church.

"Laws are made because we need them. If the President feels the Death Penalty Law is [no longer] needed, it should be repealed so that people like me who are victims would have nothing to complain about.

"If proven guilty, kidnappers should be punished according to the law.

"I hope my President can still change her mind and prove to us that she will implement the law of the land."

# New debate . . .

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Antonio Cuenco said he expected the issue to "trigger a full-blown debate in Congress."

"It's time to vote on the wisdom and merits of the death penalty," he said, echoing the call of House Deputy Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas, also of Cebu.

Gullas said Congress would have to decide soon whether it wanted to abolish the death penalty or let it stay.

"We are not saying we should do this right away. But we have to make a conscious decision one way or the other," he said in a statement.

Gullas also said the President could "possibly provide leadership and certify a bill abolishing the death penalty, as she had previously indicated."

Cuenco, one of the proponents of the Death Penalty Law, said he would push for speedy deliberations on bills seeking its repeal.

He said he would withdraw his opposition on these bills pending before the House committee on justice so these could be forwarded to the plenary for debate.

"We will vote on it; let the majority prevail," he said.

Cuenco said he had initially opposed the repeal of the law because he believed that those found guilty of heinous crimes, especially drug lords, should be put to death.

He said he decided to adopt "an open mind" after hearing the appeal of a number of European ambassadors for the abolition of capital punishment.

Cuenco also said that while he did not agree with the President's decision to commute all death sentences, he respected it.

## 'Absolute' power

Gullas described the President's power to commute death sentences as "absolute, just like the power to grant pardon."

"Nobody can question it," he said, pointing out that Ms Arroyo's decision effectively made the Philippines "a death penalty abolitionist in practice."

"There are 26 countries worldwide that are classified as abolitionist in practice. They have retained the death penalty in their statute books for certain crimes, but have not actually carried out any executions, and have a conscious policy not to carry out executions," Gullas said.

According to Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, the House assistant majority leader, those opposed to the President's decision should "realize that life in jail is as cruel as, if not more cruel than, the easy way out provided by lethal injection."

"It's also wrong to infer that a moratorium on executions signals the open season for crime and mayhem because what has not been refuted is the fact that certainty of arrest and conviction remains the best deterrent against crime," Mitra said.

He said Ms Arroyo had reinforced this "doctrine" by allotting P1 billion for the hiring of 3,000 more police officers and the purchase of 500 new police cars this year.

"More cops on the streets, and not more inmates on death row, is what will stop crime," he said.

## Pending measures

Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay and Rep. Joseph Santiago of Catanduanes expressed support for pending measures proposing life terms without the possibility of parole or the grant of parole only when convicts reach 70 years of age.

Santiago said Congress should now follow the President's lead and promptly repeal RA 7659 "in favor of a new, harsher form of life imprisonment with hard and productive labor, and without allowances for good behavior."

"Our proposal is for convicts of heinous crimes to be kept in prison until they are 70 years old, or until they have served a minimum of 40 years, whichever comes first, before becoming eligible for parole. This means they will effectively spend the rest of their natural lives in prison," he said.

Calling himself a "death penalty abolitionist," Lagman said that with the "wholesale commutation" of death sentences to life imprisonment, the Philippines was "on the verge of rejoining the league of progressive nations that have abolished the death penalty."

In a letter dated Feb. 22, 2006, Lagman requested Ms Arroyo to certify as urgent consolidated House Bill No. 4826 abolishing the death penalty, of which he is one of the principal authors.

He listed the following circumstances to justify the abolition of the death penalty: its cruelty and inhumanity, the imperfection of human justice, the inequality between rich and poor in the access to salvation from the courts, and the failure of capital punishment to deter the commission of heinous crimes.

## 'Bold move'

Santiago described Ms Arroyo's decision as "one of the boldest moves made by a Philippine President in recent history."

"We applaud [her] for her exceptionally courageous judgment," he said, adding:

"The problem with capital punishment is that it leaves no room for rectification. Once a convict is put to death, we cannot bring him back to life later on, if and when new evidence will exonerate him."

Santiago said Ms Arroyo's move was not without precedent in other parts of the world. He said that in 1999, then President Boris Yeltsin decreed the blanket commutation of the death sentences of all 716 convicts on Russia's death row.

Lagman sought to refute statements that the President's decision was designed to court the Catholic hierarchy to support administration initiatives, like the amendment of the Constitution. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Skills, hope for young 'housemates'

From page A1

partment of Social Welfare and Development and over 8,000 others in community-based rehabilitation centers, according to Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, author of the Senate version of the Juvenile Justice Bill.

The regional center, 7 km from this city, is actually a five-hectare facility for the CICL. There, youth offenders not only undergo rehabilitation for their return to mainstream society but also learn new skills.

## 'Housemates'

It does not look like an ordinary detention facility, according to its officer in charge, Maria Salome Mangubat.

It is surrounded by fruit trees, orchids, rare shrubs and flowering plants.

The center has 50 beds and also houses an automotive shop, a bakery and a nursery for different species of plants and trees.

Mangubat, who is a social worker, said the "housemates" had committed acts, such as homicide, theft, robbery and frustrated murder. Some are suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf.

"At first, wealthy kids were having a hard time adjusting with the other housemates, but later, through a series of lectures, they learned to value friendship, hard-earned money and respect for other cultures and faith," Mangubat said.

Aside from learning new skills, the "housemates" are exposed to daily activities aimed at enhancing their physical, mental and spiritual abilities.

There are also regular daily programs consisting of group lectures and sessions on job functions and psychological behavior modification, video shows and the "Sineskwela."

"If they develop certain skills that they wish to pursue, we support them and provide them with the necessary materials and tools," Mangubat said.

The center, however, has limited funds, according to Maria Fe de la Cruz, information officer of the social welfare office in Western Mindanao.

## 'Harmless lambs'

But she said innovations had been introduced to ensure constant care, love and support from people in the center.

"We are able to turn prospective monsters to harmless lambs," De la Cruz said.

In the case of Ahmed who is an orphan, De la Cruz said teaching him more skills could make him a better citizen.

"I believe that there are no delinquent children if there are no delinquent parents," Mangubat said.

Davao City has no such youth rehabilitation center, but Supt. Allan Iral of the Ma-a district jail said steps had been undertaken to look after the CICL.

Children are separated from adult offenders in the facility, Iral said. They are occupying the "Jail Welfare Unit," which used to be part of the existing structure, he said.

Iral said concerned groups had been tapped to assist officers in improving jail facilities and management.

Recently, authorities introduced an alternative learning system, livelihood and computer skills which, Iral said, would enable the CICL and the rest of the inmates to enhance their self esteem and improve their chances of employment when released.

## For children, women

A 4,000-square-meter property is currently being developed to serve as a future site for the facility of the CICL and adult women inmates. The facility will practically have no bars commonly associated with ordinary prisons.

The children and women will sleep and do their daily activities in the 20 cottages to be installed within the compound, Iral said.

Gawad Kalinga, a nongovernment organization, has pledged to donate the cottages once the compound is ready.

The facility will be called the "Ray of Hope" village and will accommodate some 200 youth and women inmates, Iral said. They "can have full square meals a day, learn new things, and have a sense of purpose," he said.

Senator Pangilinan yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to sign into law "without delay" the Juvenile Justice Bill, which takes minors away from the company of criminals in seedy jails and rehabilitates them outside.

"Take care of the nation's children first," he said in a statement issued a day after the President announced the commutation of sentences of all death convicts to life imprisonment.

"As [she] ... gives attention to adults beyond bars, I ask the President to also prioritize the plight of children who suffer the harsh conditions of incarceration," he added.

## One day too late

Pangilinan warned that each day of delay in the approval of the measure by Malacañang would further "expose our children to real threats of exploitation, molestation and other forms of abuse."

"Each day's delay means one day too late for many of our youthful offenders. I am certain the President as a mother will drop everything if her children are placed at risk. She should do the same for the sake of our nation's children," he said.

The bill was passed by the bicameral panel of Congress in late March and is awaiting Malacañang approval.

It creates a comprehensive juvenile justice system under the DSWD and the Department of Justice.

One key provision exempts minor offenders, 15 years old and below, from incarceration, but merely requires them to do sociocivic work and undergo counseling, among other rehabilitation programs, outside.

"Incarceration will be an exception. The general rule is you will be diverted to a system of diversion. There will be an approved diversion program," Pangilinan said.

The measure provides for a system where the minor offender, instead of being arrested, charged and jailed, is brought to the care of the community, Church or the DSWD.

So instead of doing time inside cramped jails, the offender is required to do. sociocivic work, undergo counseling, undertake capability-building training and make amends, like apologizing and compensating the offended party, which is considered the "restorative approach" to crime. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*


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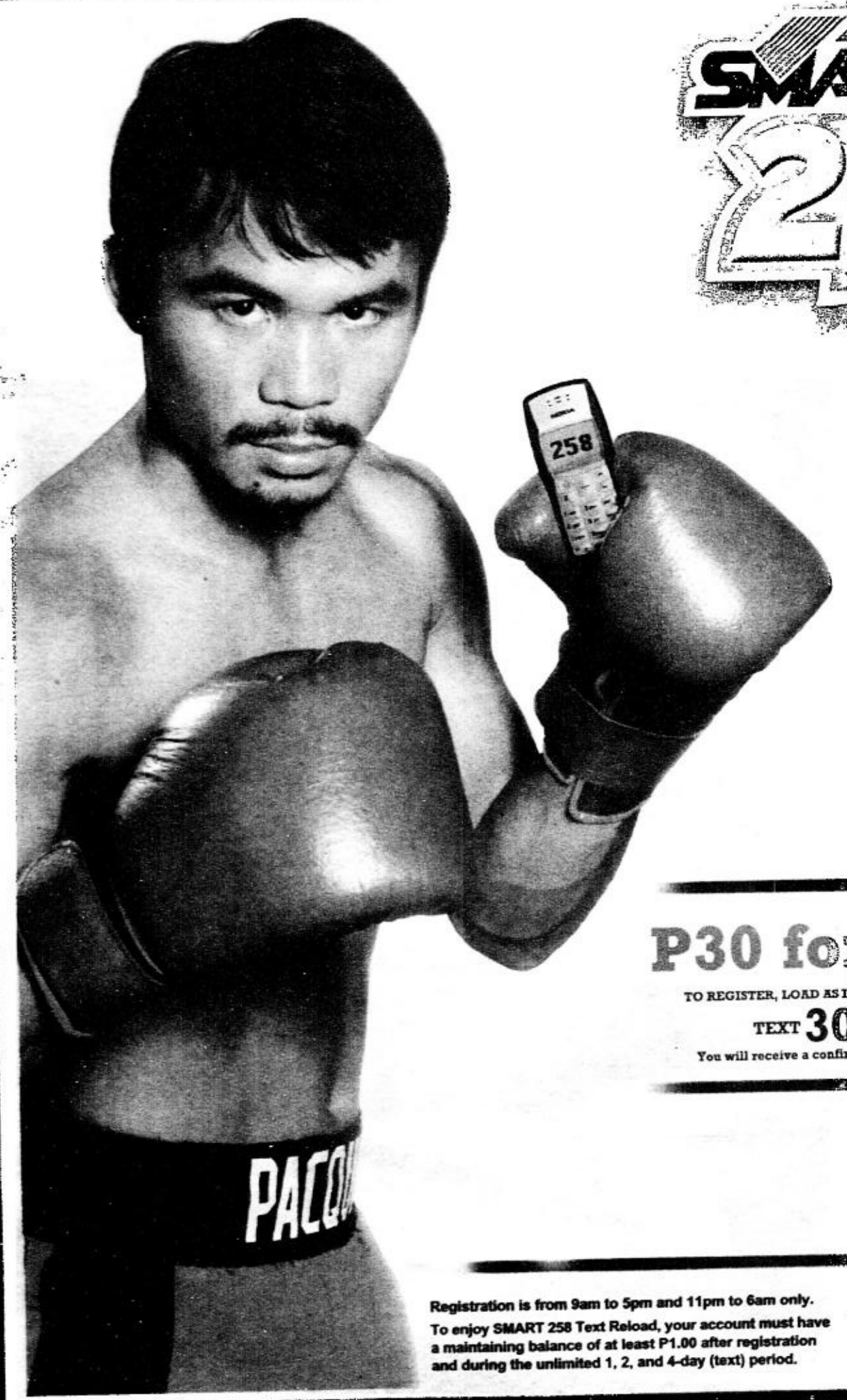


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# 'Pink Cloth' campaign set

## MMDA project to instill discipline in bus drivers by limiting time spent waiting for passengers

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INSTEAD OF A WHITE flag, traffic enforcers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority will soon be waving a pink flag at buses which tend to stay too long at loading points.

Far from giving up on its bid to instill discipline in bus drivers and restore order on routes being plied by buses in the metropolis, the MMDA will launch its "Pink Cloth" campaign anytime this month.

"We would not think up of another program if what we have now is already effective. What we (want to do) is limit the time the buses take to load passengers," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

He added that the MMDA came up with the new scheme after it saw how ineffective its traffic enforcers were in preventing bus drivers from blocking traffic flow by hogging loading points for passengers.

"What happens is, if there aren't that many passengers at loading points, buses take a longer time waiting for commuters. That's what we want to prevent," said Vergel de Dios.

A brainchild of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, the "Pink Cloth" campaign will complement the agency's Organized Bus Route scheme, a program that limits the number of buses out on the road based on commuter volume at a given time.

Under the new scheme, which will take effect on all roads plied by buses, traffic enforcers will carry a pole with a pink cloth attached to the top.

Once a bus driver exceeds the time allotment given for him to stay at the loading point, the traffic enforcer will raise the pink cloth in front of the bus door to prevent more passengers from entering.

"On the cloth would be written 'Overstaying na ang bus na ito' (This bus has stayed too long), which serves as a cue for the driver to move on. And for the commuters, there is the message, 'Sa susunod na bus na lang sumakay' (Please take the next bus)," said MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno over the agency's weekly public service program MMDA sa GMA, aired on dzBB radio.

Vergel de Dios said the maximum loading time per bus at given stops will vary, depending on the time of day and the amount of commuters out on the road. He said the agency was still studying commuter volume patterns within a day, data that will be used to set time allowances for bus loading on the Metro's thoroughfares.

"It could be 15 seconds or 20 seconds, depending on the time of day. But for sure, the less passengers there are, the more that we have to limit the time buses [stay at bus stops]," he added.

The "Pink Cloth" scheme will be implemented as soon as the agency has enough pink cloth for all bus stops along the Metro's thoroughfares. Vergel de Dios said the program may be launched within the week.

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**EASTER FUN**
A boy shows off the eggs he found during an Easter egg hunt organized by a hotel in Mandaluyong City. RAFFY LERMA

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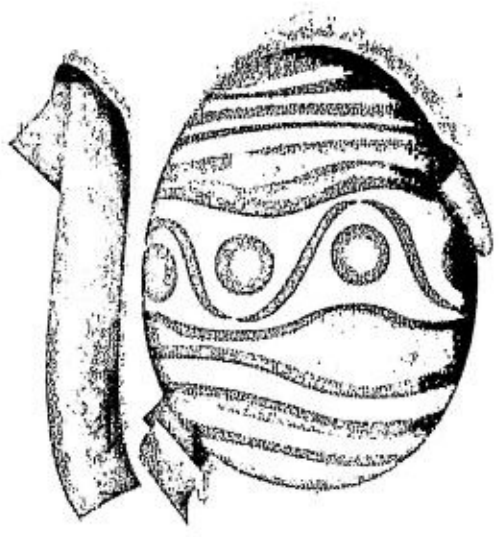

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# Bank customers alerted against motorcycle-riding thieves

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE POLICE YESTERDAY WARNED the public to watch out for robbers, usually on board motorcycles, who prey on people who have just stepped out of the bank after withdrawing big sums of money.

These men may be getting some help from their cohorts inside some banks, Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino said.

"To avoid intensified security in most banks, robbers now monitor customers withdrawing money and follow them after they leave," he added.

He said this was probably what happened during a daring robbery on the busy Shaw Boulevard on Tuesday noon, where police managed to arrest two robbers, who attempted to escape by throwing P227,000 into the air.

Pasig City Police chief Senior Supt. Romeo Abaring told the INQUIRER the two suspects were part of a bigger group of about 10 robbers, usually attacking in tandem on board motorcycles.

"The group is about three months old. They have preyed on victims in eastern Metro Manila and even in the province of Rizal," Abaring said.

To avoid being victimized by the group, Abaring advised those withdrawing big sums of money from banks to be careful.

"They should not leave the bank alone. They should have some security," he added.

In Tuesday's incident, Reliable Work Force and General Services employee Elmer Tejolan, 29, had just withdrawn money from a Metrobank Branch on Shaw Boulevard when two men on board a motorcycle stopped the van he was driving.

They shot at the van's windows and then took the envelopes which contained the P227,000 in cash Tejolan was carrying.

The gunshots, however, were heard by SPO4 Cecilio Santos, 53, who happened to be passing by the area.

He ran after the fleeing suspects, who tossed the bills into the air, causing bystanders to rush to the middle of the busy street to gather up the money.

A team of Special Weapons and Tactics operatives who saw the commotion came to Santos' aid and arrested the two suspects.

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# Winning QC students to get cash prizes

By DJ Yap

NOW, QUEZON CITY'S PUBLIC school students—and their trainers—have another reason to strive to make their city and country proud.

A recent memorandum issued by Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. orders the awarding of cash prizes to the city's students who stand out in contests here or abroad, as well as their advisers and trainers.

Students who top international tilts stand to get P10,000, while those who place second or third will get cash incentives worth P8,000 and P6,000 respectively.

On the other hand, the first three placers in national competitions will receive P5,000, P4,000 and P3,000, respectively.

In Metro-wide contests, first placers will receive P2,000, second placers P1,500 and third placers P1,000.

The students' trainers and advisers will get similar cash rewards.

Belmonte instructed Division of City Schools superintendent Victoria Fuentes to implement the granting of the uniform cash incentives to be taken from the Special Education Fund.

## METROBRIEFS

### Manila hospital to reopen

THE CITY-OWNED Ospital ng Manila (OsMa) will be reopened to the public this week after a major power supply rehabilitation. Dr. Joyce Chow, OsMa administrator, said full operations will resume on Wednesday after a six-day total power shutdown. Chow explained that the hospital underwent a massive rehabilitation of the main power supply line. She said the facility's power lines, which have been operational since OsMa was constructed in 1969, were improved. "We have a lot of new and additional hospital equipment which could cause the power lines to overload," Chow explained in an earlier interview. OsMa's patients were temporarily brought to city-owned medical facilities such as Ospital ng Sampaloc Medical Center, Ospital ng Tondo Medical Center in Abad Santos, and the Gat Andres Bonifacio Medical Center in Del Pan, the hospital administrator said.

*Margaux C. Ortiz*

### Police to resume digging

ALTHOUGH a man had already surfaced and claimed that he was the slain suspected drug peddler police were hoping to unearth, the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force is still preparing to resume digging up a swamp inside a Pasig City compound. But AIDSOTF chief Director Marcelo Ele Jr. said they would apply for a court order first. "We are still preparing to apply for a court order as well as to gather additional evidence before we resume the excavation," Ele told the INQUIRER. He refused to give a fixed timetable for the operation, saying this would depend on the court. Police started digging up a swamp inside Sitio Mapayapa in Barangay Sto. Tomas about two weeks ago after a witness said a drug peddler was killed and buried in the compound by his superiors in October 2005. But after two days, and after creating a 10-foot deep and 15-foot wide crater, police found nothing inside the compound, where they found more than 40 shanties serving as shabu restaurants on Feb. 10.

*Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

### Man sues restaurant

A SEXAGENARIAN has lodged criminal charges against the management of a Chinese restaurant for not giving him a 20 percent discount when he paid for his meal using a credit card. Narciso Alano, 65, charged the management of Wan Chai Restaurant at 618 Congressional Avenue, Quezon City with violating the Expanded Senior Citizens Act in the Quezon City prosecutor's office. According to the one-page complaint, Alano went to the restaurant with friends for lunch on April 2. When they finished their meal, Alano asked for the bill, which amounted to P864.88. He presented both his credit card and senior citizen ID, but was told the restaurant could not give him a 20-percent discount since it was a credit card purchase. The law requires a 20-percent discount for senior citizens when buying certain goods, such as food and medicine. Alano said he eventually paid the full amount but under protest.

*DJ Yap*

### Cleanest barangay

NAVOTAS Mayor Toby Tiangco will lead the launching of the municipality-wide search for the cleanest and greenest barangay. The search will cover barangay halls, schools, daycare centers and police precincts and is in line with the municipal government's campaign on ecological waste segregation and recycling, the major components of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. "It is high time that everyone should do their share in maintaining cleanliness to minimize the volume of garbage collected everyday to promote a safe and clean environment," Tiangco said. The winner will receive a cash prize of P100,000 and a plaque of recognition. The awarding ceremonies will be held on Jan. 16, 2007 in time for the 101st Navotas Day celebration.

### School offers scholarships

THE GENETIC Computer Institute is now offering scholarship grants and special packages for 300 high school graduates from both public and private schools. Open to public or private students who graduated with honors and barangay recommendees, the scholarships offer a 50 percent discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees and is valid throughout the entire two-year International Diploma in Computer Science course. Application forms are available at the Genetic Computer Institute, Computer Graphics Building in New Manila. For inquiries, please call 7220549 and 7222821 or e-mail info@genetic.edu.ph

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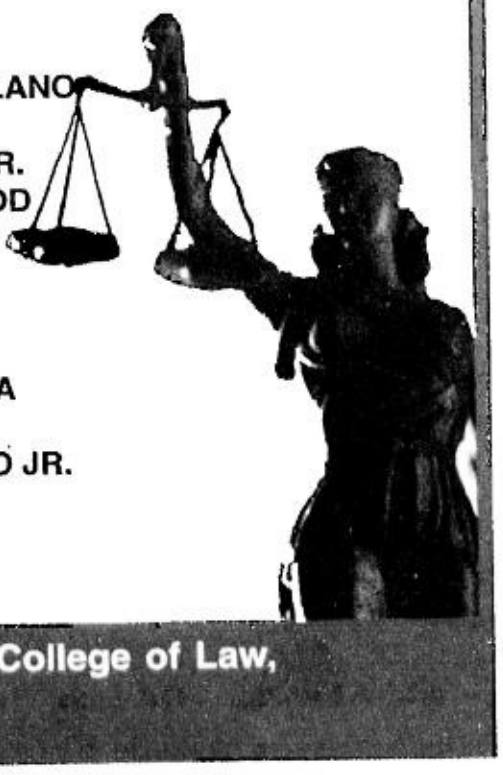

The UE Administration will tender a testimonial dinner in their honor on April 19, 2006, Wednesday, 6 p.m., at the Park Ballroom of Century Park Hotel, 599 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila.

**For further inquiries, please call the Office of the Dean (Justice Dante O. Tinga Chamber), UE College of Law, UE Manila, tel. nos. 735-6978 or 735-5471 local 324, or email <law@ue.edu.ph>.**

# Fewer crimes in Manila during Holy Week

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT SEEMED AS IF CRIMINALS also went on vacation in the city of Manila.

Attributing their success to the Manila Police District's Oplan Semana Santa, MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday announced that the crime volume in the city dropped by 10 percent during the Holy Week.

Bulaong said that based on statistics, the number of crimes from April 6 to 12 declined by 59 cases, with only two incidents of homicide and robbery reported in Tondo and San Andres Bukid.

He added that the number of crime cases was 10 percent lower than the previous week covering March 30 to April 5.

The statistics also indicated that there were no cases involving Akyat-Bahay and Salisi gangs. There were no incidents of car theft either, the police chief said.

"The MPD attributes the significant decrease in the number of crimes to the safety measures that we devised as part of 'Oplan Semana Santa' in preparation for the observance of the Holy Week," Bulaong said in a statement.

"We had intensified police visibility in key areas such as church premises and transport terminals to prevent suspected criminals from preying on innocent people," he added.

Bulaong, meanwhile, ordered all police units to continue implementing the security measures in an effort to continue to bring down the crime volume and maintain peace and order in the city.

# *1st Kolisko conference held April 22-29*

## Discovering the threefold nature of human beings should be part of education

By Susana Calalay-Yñiguez
*Contributor*

WHEN CHILDREN PICK UP THEIR FIRST pencil or crayon and start to scribble on paper, the wall or the floor, they begin to speak from within.

Amazingly, they draw big loops as if from nowhere, and lines with no direction become their symbolic language of forms. Are they mirroring the planetary cycle, perhaps?

Trying to find an explanation for this means of expression would be futile unless one looks closely enough. And so it is with child-rearing: As children grow, they give different signals at every stage of development.

Austrian physician Eugen Kolisko worked closely with the children of the Waldorf School in Germany, and his observations and study have become an inspiration for many of his fellow doctors as well as educators in Europe.

### Children as free-thinkers

His diagnostic investigation and clinical analysis found their way into, then correlated with, various aspects of child education.

These aspects involve:

- Children as free-thinking, free-feeling and free-willing human beings.

They learn to perceive in thoughts that connect them to their surroundings. This activity is centered in the brain. They take in the world through the nerve/sense system in a set of gestures that enrich their souls.

- Children's relationship with the world as expressed in the metabolic system.

From their first bite, their teeth leave an imprint on the world—from the mouth to the intestinal track, then over to the anus, disposing of a surplus that allows them to give themselves over to the world.

- The rhythmic system, where something of the world is taken in and interchanged, much like the reciprocity between oxygen and carbon dioxide through breathing.

The breathing in and out, the beating of our heart—all these take place in harmonious accord with the rhythms of the cosmos.

We breathe 18 times per minute, 1,080 times per hour, 25,920 times per 24 hours.

Why is it important to observe these manifestations? Because we are in sync with the universal movement—a remarkable phenomenon that is important for educators, medical practitioners and parents to consider in the study of child development.

### Important concept

Discovering the threefold nature of human beings is an important concept that should form part of our education.

Learning about what subjects are best introduced to children during these developmental stages of the human body will be one of the topics in the Kolisko Conference, a first in the Philippines, intended for educators with a deeper interest in understanding the human component of a child.

Doctors may be challenged to find out what defects in the rhythmic system may develop in the later years of a human being's life. Parents, most of all, may want to understand more the role of these processes in their child's growth.

On April 22-29, the Anthroposophia Wellness Foundation will host the Kolisko Conference. The focus of the conference is on how education is contributory to health development. Therapeutic approaches to education, temperament, ADHD are some of the topics for discussion.

*For inquiries, visit the secretariat at Centro Natura at 24 Mahusay St., UP Village, Quezon City (tel. 4240055 or 0919-3091180), or the Anthroposophia Wellness Foundation Inc. on Timog cor. Morato Avenues, Quezon City (tel. 4120224 or 3734807). Or e-mail koliskophil@yahoo.com or log on to www.kolisko.net.*

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# Analyst bares details of war plans vs Iran

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States began planning a full-scale military campaign against Iran that involves missile strikes, a land invasion and a naval operation to establish control over the Strait of Hormuz even before the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, a former US intelligence analyst disclosed Sunday.

William Arkin, who served as the US Army's top intelligence mind on West Berlin in the 1970s and accurately predicted US military operations against Iraq, said the plan is known in military circles as TIRANNT, an acronym for "Theater Iran Near Term."

It includes a scenario for a land invasion led by the US Marine Corps, a detailed analysis of the Iranian missile force and a global strike plan against any Iranian weapons of mass destruction, Arkin wrote in The Washington Post.

US and British planners have already conducted a Caspian Sea war game as part of these preparations, the scholar said.

"According to military sources close to the planning process, this task was given to Army Gen. John Abizaid, now commander of Centcom, in 2002," Arkin wrote, referring to the Florida-based US Central Command.

But preparations under TIRANNT began in earnest in May 2003 and never stopped, he said. The plan has since been updated using information collected in Iraq.

Air Force planners have modeled attacks against Iranian air defenses, while Navy planners have evaluated coastal targets and drawn up scenarios for keeping control of the Strait of Hormuz.

A follow-on TIRANNT analysis, which began in October 2003, calculated the results of different scenarios to provide options to commanders, Arkin wrote.

The Marines, meanwhile, have come up with their own document called "Concept of Operations" that explores the possibility of moving forces from ship to shore without establishing a beachhead first.

"Though the Marine Corps enemy is described only as a deeply religious revolutionary country named Karona, it is—with its Revolutionary Guards, WMD and oil wealth—unmistakably meant to be Iran," Arkin said.

Various scenarios involving Iran's missile force have also been examined in another study, initiated in 2004 and known as BMD-I, which is short for "Ballistic Missile Defense—Iran," Arkin said. *AFP*

A SECTION of San Francisco, looking east across Grant Avenue toward Yerba Buena Island, shows the ravages of the great earthquake that struck Wednesday, April 18, 1906. AP

# San Francisco marks centenary of 1906 quake

MENLO PARK, CALIF.—AT EVERY corner, the San Francisco area is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the April 18, 1906, earthquake that marked one of the worst natural disasters in US history.

A small band of aged survivors are making public appearances, including at the start of a recent baseball game.

Museums and public halls are holding retrospectives, and construction and insurance companies are promoting their services against future earthquakes.

The city has staged a new ballet titled "Earthquake" which includes sounds of seismic movements amid a sculpture producers say represents the Richter scale.

Phones are ringing at the offices of the US Geological Survey as the media prepare a hearty diet of earthquake related items. Yet for all the publicity, scientists lament that few in the public understand that the Richter scale so often cited in reports on earthquake sizes, is long gone, replaced by "moment magnitude" scale.

And yes, there is a difference.

For decades, historians recorded the 1906 San Francisco earthquake as an 8.3 on the Richter scale. On the newer scale the disaster was reassessed as a 7.8 or 7.9, knocking it a notch down to a "major" rather than "great" earthquake.

"Fundamentally what I think most people don't understand is this concept of what moment magnitude is," said Thomas Hanks, who devised what is now the accepted standard scale with Hiroo Kanamori in 1979.

California seismologist Charles Richter pioneered earthquake magnitude measurement in the 1930s. A man who lived a colorful personal life as a nudist, Richter achieved wide fame, but even decades later he said the public was still confused.

"Lately there have been complaints that the use of the magnitude scale is confusing, or at least the reporting of magnitudes in the newspapers 'confuses the public'," Richter wrote in 1958.

Today, the media regularly misreport earthquakes in Richter magnitudes—a scale that fails to give accurate measurements on bigger earthquakes of 6 or greater.

"It's only when you get to these larger earthquakes that there is a difference, and it's only because the instrument on which (Richter's) local magnitude is based did not receive enough of the frequency band to get the true size of the earthquake," said Hanks, who works at the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park, south of San Francisco.

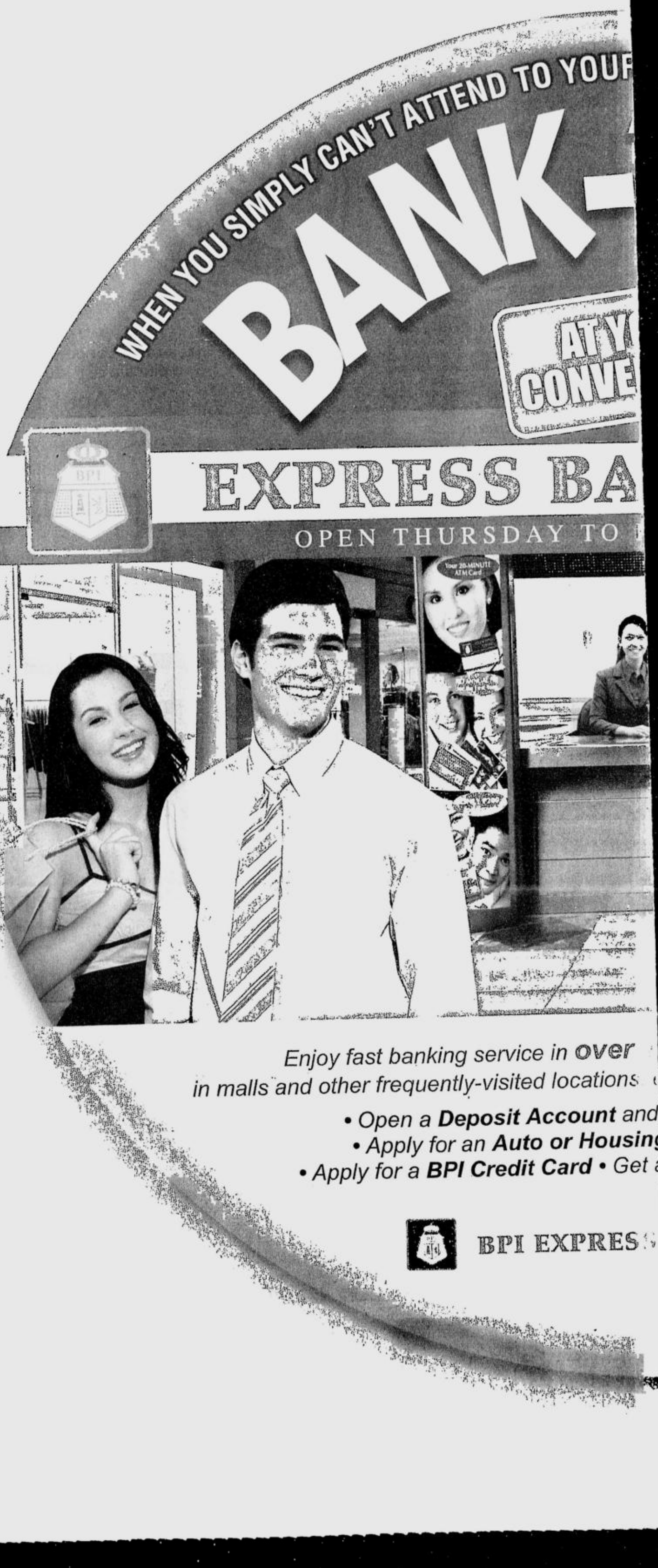
In essence what the numbers mean—such as a "4" being a light quake, a "6" a strong quake—has stayed the same, but the way the numbers are calculated has changed.

James Dolan, an assistant professor of earth sciences at the University of Southern California, compares the old Richter system to a violin that does not play bass notes—but still uses the same musical scale.

The US Geological Survey adopted moment magnitude as its official standard in 2000, although it had already been in use for years before that.

As for public confusion, Tom Hanks—whose name sometimes confuses people because of the actor of the same name—blames poor US scientific literacy, but acknowledges that he may not have spent enough time spreading his insights in public.

In a nutshell, the new scale measures the "moment" of an earthquake—the rigidity of rock along the face of a fault, the area of the fault and how much one side of the fault moves relative to the other. The "moment magnitude" then uses that data to calculate the earthquake's magnitude in an easy-to-digest, one-digit number. *Reuters*



# Iran warns of regional instability if attacked

DAMASCUS—ANY US ATTACK on Iran over its nuclear program would plunge the region into instability, former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Sunday.

"We do not discount the possibility of US aggression under any circumstance; we stress at the same time that it would not be in the interest of the United States, nor us," the influential Rafsanjani said during a visit to Syria.

The United States says Iran appears intent on making an atomic bomb and all options are on the table to try to prevent it. But Washington says it is pursuing the diplomatic course and rejects reports it is stepping up plans for a military strike.

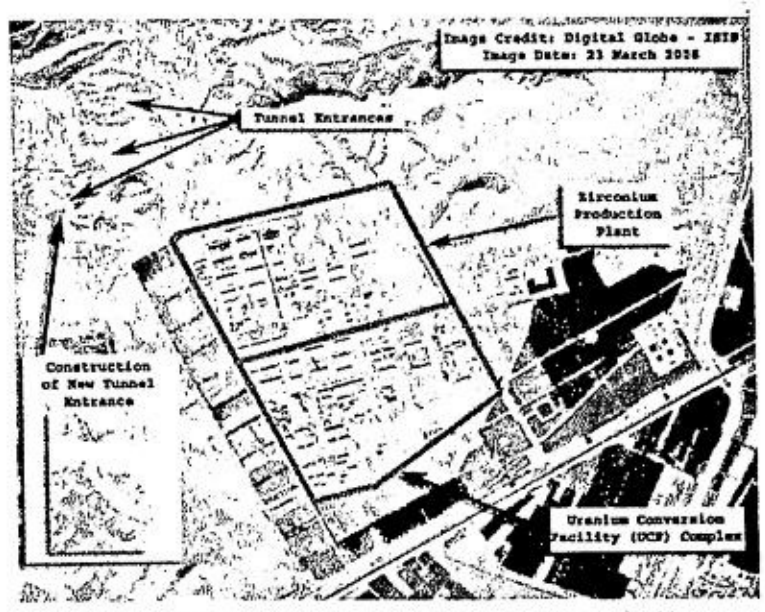
Rafsanjani said Tehran's nuclear program, which he reiterated was for peaceful purposes, would benefit the region, which would also suffer from the fallout of any military strike.

"Harm will not only engulf the Islamic Republic of Iran, but the region and everybody," Rafsanjani, who heads a council that arbitrates Iranian legislative disputes, told a news conference with Syrian Vice President Farouq al-Shara.

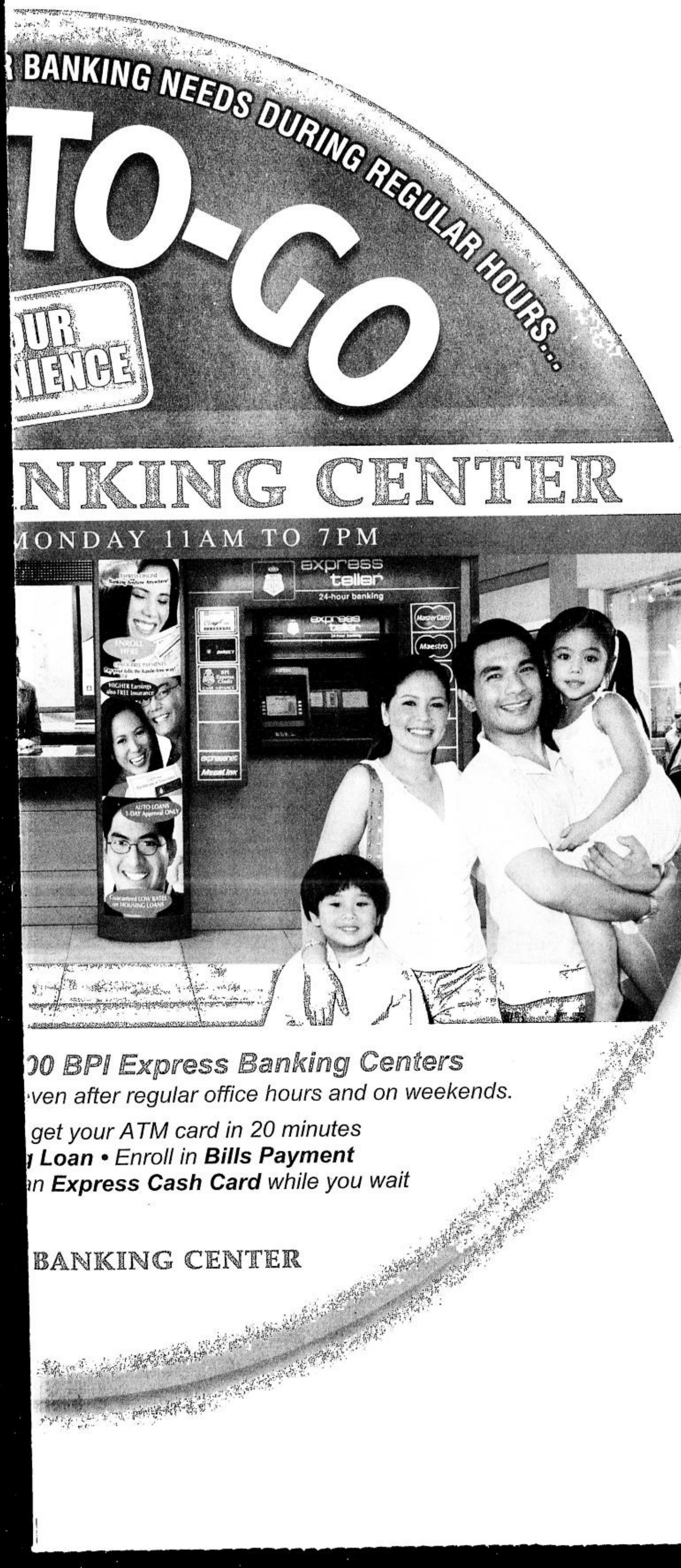
Iran, whose population is mainly Shiite Muslim, has regional influence through Shiite allies in Iraq and Lebanon.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who defeated Rafsanjani in last year's elections, said on Tuesday Iran had enriched uranium needed to make nuclear fuel and would accelerate efforts to achieve industrial level enrichment.

The announcement deepened Iran's confrontation with the United States. *Reuters*




A VIEW of the uranium conversion site at Isfahan, Iran, is seen in this DigitalGlobe satellite image released with notations by the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) on April 16. New satellite imagery indicates Iran has expanded its uranium conversion site. REUTERS/DIGITALGLOBE-ISIS




# Ohio priest faces trial in nun's slay

TOLEDO, OHIO—A 68-YEAR-OLD Catholic priest goes on trial on Monday in the stabbing death of a nun whose body was found covered by an altar cloth in a chapel 26 years ago.

The Rev. Gerald Robinson, charged with murder and facing a possible sentence of life in jail if convicted, has been on leave from his priestly duties since his arrest in 2004. He has pleaded not guilty.

The crime occurred in a hospital chapel in downtown Toledo on Saturday of Easter week in 1980. Investigators said the nun, Margaret Ann Pahl, 71, was strangled and then stabbed up to 32 times.

The investigation initially centered on Robinson, the hospital's chaplain and a priest of the Toledo Catholic Diocese. He was not charged at the time and presided over Pahl's funeral Mass.

Police reopened the case in 2003 and arrested Robinson in April 2004. The cold case squad said it suspected that blood spatters left at the crime scene matched a letter opener in Robinson's possession.

After his arrest investigators said they believed a "ceremony" had taken place inside the chapel in conjunction with the slaying but did not elaborate. Robinson is the only one who has been charged.

Several events led to the case being reopened. In June 2003, an unidentified woman went to the Toledo Diocese seeking reimbursement for her therapy. She presented officials there with a letter claiming she was a childhood victim of clerical sexual abuse by Robinson, according to the Toledo Blade, which obtained a copy of the letter.

The woman claimed to be the victim of Satanic ritualistic sexual abuse perpetrated by a number of priests who were involved in a cult, the newspaper said.

Prosecutors said they were unaware of the letter until after the woman who wrote it gave a copy to Claudia Vercellotti, a Toledo leader of the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests.

Vercellotti forwarded it to the Ohio attorney general's office in September 2003, saying she thought church officials were not moving on it. The state office in turn sent the letter to Lucas County prosecutors, causing them to reopen the case in December of that year.

Police have said they asked the diocese to voluntarily surrender all documents in Robinson's file but only got three pages.

In September 2004, the diocese was served with a warrant and surrendered over 100 documents. The diocese has consistently refused to discuss the case, citing a court gag order. *Reuters*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Taliban attack police posts

KANDAHAR—Taliban fighters attacked three police posts in Afghanistan overnight, leaving 14 rebels dead or wounded, while soldiers killed four more in separate battles, officials said Sunday. The police posts—a couple of kilometers apart—were attacked in a near-simultaneous strike late Saturday, police said. "For 30 minutes the Taliban were fighting with police last night. Fourteen Taliban wounded and killed," Zabul provincial police chief Mohammad Nabi Molakhel told AFP. The posts, which are usually manned by about 10 policemen, were all near the Zabul capital Qalat. *AFP*

### Sri Lanka's Tigers pull out of peace talks

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka—The Tamil Tigers said on Saturday they were pulling out of peace talks with the Sri Lankan government as two blasts killed seven servicemen, fueling fears of renewed civil war on the island. The Tigers said their withdrawal from talks in Geneva aimed at saving a faltering 2002 ceasefire was due to problems with a requested safe-conduct transport of rebel commanders. The Tigers were concerned about Sri Lankan navy plans to monitor a boat that was to have taken the commanders based in the east and their Nordic escorts on Saturday to the Tigers' northern base, the head of the Tiger peace secretariat said. *Reuters*

### Berlusconi ally sees new chance

ROME—The dispute over who won Italy's general election took a new twist on Saturday when an ally of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said he had found a mistake in the tally that would reverse the ruling coalition's defeat. The center-left opposition alliance, which claimed victory four days ago in the April 9-10 vote, dismissed the assertion by Roberto Calderoli, a former reforms minister. Calderoli, a member of the Northern League party, said he had discovered a batch of 45,580 votes he said were picked up illegally by a center-left political party, the Lega Alleanza Lombarda. "If somebody is thinking about heading down to the square to celebrate with this vote tally the way it is, that would be like a coup," said Calderoli, adding he made a formal complaint to election authorities. *Reuters*

### Scottish author Muriel Spark dies

ROME—The Scottish writer Muriel Spark, whose death in Florence was announced Saturday at the age of 88, was one of her country's foremost literary figures, specializing in short, sharp, witty novels with a keen sense of the extraordinary. The author of "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" and a host of other novels, short stories, poetry and works of literary criticism, had made Italy her home since the late 1960s. She died in a Florence hospital and was to be buried Saturday in the small Tuscan town of Civitella della Chiana, where she had lived since 1979 and which made her an honorary citizen in September 2005. Born Muriel Camberg in Edinburgh in 1918 into a Jewish family of Lithuanian origin, she later converted to Roman Catholicism. *AFP*

### Four in India mosque attacks nabbed

NEW DELHI—Police detained four people in connection with the twin blasts at India's biggest mosque that injured 14 people as security was stepped up at temples and mosques across northern India to guard against reprisal attacks. Two of the detainees were picked up early Saturday while the other two were taken in late Friday, said a police official who did not wish to be named. "Three of them are from Delhi while the fourth says he is not from here," he said. "We have not arrested them. They are in custody for questioning." Officials said it was too early to say who was behind the two explosions, which occurred after Friday evening prayers at the crowded 17th-century Jama Masjid in the old quarter of the capital. *AFP*

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## VISAYAS

**CEBU** via *Air Philippines*

| | From Manila | From Davao | From Iloilo |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MACTAN RESORTS** | | | |
| Tambuli | 11,226 | 10,729 | 9,609 |
| Costa Bella | 11,576 | 11,079 | 9,959 |
| Maribago | 12,021 | 11,524 | 10,404 |

*Also Includes: Half day Cebu City Tour*
*Also Available: Cordova, Hilton, Shangri-La*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CITY HOTELS** | | | |
| Montebello | 10,481 | 9,984 | 8,864 |
| Midtown | 10,905 | 10,408 | 9,228 |
| Waterfront | 12,440 | 11,942 | 10,822 |

*Also Includes: Beach tour w/ lunch*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **SPECIAL INTEREST RESORTS** | | | |
| Sumilon+2Dives | 14,786 | 14,289 | 13,169 |
| *Also Includes: 2 Dives (Tank, belt, boat, guide)* | | | |
| Alegre Beach | 12,502 | 12,005 | 10,885 |
| *Also Includes: Sunset Cruise* | | | |
| Badian +Spa | 23,996 | 23,499 | 22,379 |
| *Also Includes: 1hr relaxation foot bath and Badian Massage + 1hr use of Thallaso Falls* | | | |

**BORACAY** via *Asian Spirit* or *SeaAir*

| | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Patio Pacific | 8,980 | 9,909 |
| Boracay Tropics | 9,554 | 10,394 |
| Club Panoly | 9,918 | 10,676 |
| Sand Castles | 10,414 | 11,354 |

*Also available : Club Ten, Asya Resort, Lorenzo South, Boracay Regency, Seawind, Mandala Spa*

Negros Navigation (By Ferry) P6,243
2 nights on board/ 2 nights in Boracay

| **BOHOL** | From Manila | From Cebu | From Iloilo |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Centre | 10,846 | 4,656 | 9,966 |
| Blue Sky | 11,422 | 5,232 | 10,542 |
| Bohol Tropics | 11,801 | 5,611 | 10,921 |
| Alona Kew | 11,886 | 5,696 | 11,006 |
| Bohol Beach Club | 12,346 | 6,156 | 11,566 |

*Also Includes : Full day Chocolate Hills tour & Loay River Cruise & Lunch*

Balicasag (PTA) 12,556 6,366 11,676
*Also includes: 2 Dives (Tank, belt, boat, guide)*

| **BACOLOD** via *Air Philippines* | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Casino Filipino | 9,684 | 8,369 |
| Quiet Place Farm | 10,828 | 9,513 |
| L'Fisher Hotel | 10,829 | 10,513 |

*Also Includes: Half day Silay Heritage Tour*

| **DUMAGUETE** via *Air Philippines* | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Bethel House | 10,124 | 4,930 |

*Also available: South Sea & Sta Monica*
*Includes: Country side tour OR Apo Island tour OR Dolphin Watching (Requires Min. of 4 for Dolphin watching)*

| **GUIMARAS** via *Air Philippines* | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Costa Aguada | 9,307 | 7,892 |

| **ILOILO** via *Air Philippines* | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Sarabia Manor (Std) | 9,937 | 8,622 |

*Also available: Amigo Terrace, Grand Dame*
*Also Includes: South Country side Tour w/ Miag-ao church, a UNESCO Heritage Site and Lunch.*

**TACLOBAN**
MacArthur Park (PTA) 10,758
*Also Includes: ½ Day City Tour visit to MacArthur Monument & Sto Nino shrine*

## MINDANAO

**DAVAO** via *Air Phillipines*

| | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Marco Polo | 12,938 | 11,129 |

*Also Available: Waterfront, Grand Regal, Apo View, Grand Menseng, Malagos Garden*
*Also Includes: Day Tour to Pearl Farm Beach for guests staying in the City Hotels*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pearl Farm | 14,470 | 12,449 |

Also ipcludes: ½ Day Davao City Tour

**CAGAYAN DE ORO** via *Air Philippines*

| Whitewater Rafting (Min. of 4 persons) | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lauremar Beach | 11,590 | 10,185 |
| VIP Hotel | 11,038 | 9,633 |

*Also Available: Dynasty Court Hotel, Casa Crystalla, Malasag Gardens*
*Also Includes: Whitewater Rafting w/ Lunch Or City Tour with Lunch*

| **CAMIGUIN** | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Bahay Bakasyunan | 15,859 | 13,419 |
| Camiguin Highlands | 16,640 | 14,164 |

*Also includes : White island Sand bar hop & Camiguin Island Tour with Lunch*

| **DIPOLOG** | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Dakak Beach Resort | 13,171 | 11,345 |

| **GENERAL SANTOS** via *Air Philippines* | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Sydney Hotel or East Asia Royale | 12,158 | 10,529 |

*Includes: ½ Day City Tour w/ visit to Tuna factory*

| **SIARGAO** | From Manila |
|---|---|
| Cherry Nicole Resort | 13,920 |

*Also includes: Visit to Sohoton Cave*

| **ZAMBOANGA** via *Air Philippines* | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Lancaka Hotel | 11,135 | 9,830 |
| Garden Orchid | 14,249 | 13,055 |

*Also includes: ½ Day tour Sta. Cruz Pink Beach Island w/ Lunch*

## LUZON

**PALAWAN**

| **PUERTO PRINCESA** via *Air Philippines* or *SeaAir* | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Hotel Fleuris | 10,326 | 10,758 |
| Asturias Hotel | 9,926 | 11,358 |
| Legend Hotel | 11,376 | 11,808 |

*Also includes: Underground River w/ Lunch or Honda Bay Tour w/ Lunch*

| **CORON** | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Dive Link Sail & Fly (One way ferry/One way Air) | 12,625 | 19,497 |
| SEAIRscapada (Roundtrip by Air) | 13,350 | 20,222 |

*Also includes: Coron Island Tour w/ Lunch, Use of Kayak for Mangrove discovery, Uson Island Trek Tour*

| **PALAWAN PACKAGES W/ ALL MEALS:** (FULL BOARD) | | |
|---|---|---|
| El Rio Y Mar (Busuanga) | 13,868 | 20,739 |
| Club Paradise (Busuanga) | 16,737 | 23,608 |
| Dos Palmas (Puerto Princesa) | 20,326 | 20,758 |
| Club Noah (Taytay) | 25,136 | 32,008 |
| El Nido Miniloc | 24,957 | 31,829 |

| **BAGUIO** | From Manila |
|---|---|
| Concorde Hotel or similar | |
| Via *Asian Spirit* | 8,161 |
| Via Public Bus (from terminal) | 4,738 |

*Also available: El Cielito Inn, Microtel, John Hay Manor*
*Also Includes : ½ Day Baguio City Tour*

| **BATANES** (Min.of 8 Persons) | From Manila |
|---|---|
| Batanes Seaside or similar | 14,200 |

*Also includes: Whole day Seascape tour*

| **BANAUE** (IFUGAO) (by land) | From Manila |
|---|---|
| 3D/2N Banaue (Min. of 4) | 7,691 |
| 4D/3N Ifugao Heritage (Thu;Sun) | 10,980 |

*Also Includes: Full Day Tour to the Rice Terraces*

**BICOL**

| Donsol whale shark interaction (Min. of 4) OR Bicol Kulinarya | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| via Air Philippines | 13,267 | 13,151 |
| via Public bus | 8,875 | N/A |

*Air Phil departs Manila every Tue & Sun*
*Air Phil departs Cebu every Tue only*

| **CAGAYAN NORTH** | |
|---|---|
| Penablanca | |
| Via *Asian Spirit* | 10,685 |
| Via Public bus | 7,680 |
| Our Lady of Piat (Min. of 6) | 8,818 |
| Tuguegarao / Kalinga (Jun-Oct) | 10,888 |

*Includes : Whitewater Rafting (Min. of 6)*

**ILOCOS**
**LAOAG**

| Fort Ilocandia | From Manila | From Cebu |
|---|---|---|
| Via Asian Spirit | 10,085 | 16,956 |
| Via Public bus | 6,740 | N/A |

*Also Includes: Vigan Tour & Pagudpud Tour (Min. of 4)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Cabugao Beach (20 min from Vigan) | 10,449 17,321 |
| Laoag / Cabugao Combo | 9,721 |

| **PUERTO GALERA** *(Mindoro)* | |
|---|---|
| By Land & Ferry from Manila/ No air fare | |
| Coco Beach | 3,130 |
| GM Resort | 3,450 |

## EKSKARSYON (DAY TRIPS)

Programs operate with minimum 10 persons based on scheduled departure except Corregidor which is daily operation.

| TOUR | DATES | PRICE |
|---|---|---|
| Corregidor Tour | Daily | 2,060 |
| Pinatubo Trek | 29 April | 3,300 |
| Kulinarya Quezon | 13 May | 3,450 |
| Cavite - Taal Heritage via Tagaytay | 20 May | 2,950 |
| Rizal - Laguna Arts & Craft | 27 May | 2,800 |
| Pampanga's Culinary & Bulacan Heritage | 10 June | 2,400 |

*All tours include lunch, air-conditioned transportation and services of an English-speaking tourguide) Also available – Pagsanjan Rapids, Villa Escudero, Hidden Valley, Manila City Tour, Marikina City Tour, Makati Museums, Enchanted Kingdom, Biak na Bato Caving Plus School Excursions & Company outings*

## OVERNIGHT PACKAGES

Room & Breakfast per person (2 in a room)
(Transpo not included, unless specified)

| METRO- MANILA HOTELS (Per person) | |
|---|---|
| Malate - Kimberly | 975 |
| Pasay - Mabuhay Manor | 1,075 |
| Makati - Prince Hotel | 1,120 |
| Q.C. - Imperial | 1,250 |

*Also available: Heritage, Pavilion, Galleria Suites, Phil Plaza, Hyatt Casino*

| SUBIC + OLONGAPO(Room & Breakfast) | |
|---|---|
| Subic International | 1,550 |
| Legends Suites | 2,160 |
| Grande Island | 1,550 |
| White Rock + 1 Dinner | 3,200 |
| SUBIC Overnight w/ Transpo | 2,888 |

| CLARK (Room & Breakfast) | |
|---|---|
| Holiday Inn | 2,233 |

| TAGAYTAY (Room & Breakfast) | |
|---|---|
| Nurture Spa +1 Massage | 2,700 |
| Taal Vista Hotel | 2,005 |

| CAVITE (Room & Breakfast) | |
|---|---|
| Caylabne Bay | 2,341 |
| Island Cove | 3,573 |

| LAGUNA (Room & Breakfast) | |
|---|---|
| Casa San Pablo | 1,500 |

| BATANGAS (Room & Breakfast) | |
|---|---|
| Eagle Point (Anilao) | 1,950 |
| Microtel Inn (Sto.Thomas) | 1,400 |
| Lima City Hotel | 1,500 |
| Laiya Coco Grove | 2,000 |
| Club Malarayat | (rate to be advised) |
| The Farm at San Benito | 3,825 |

## FIESTA!

| | |
|---|---|
| PAYNAUEN Zambales | 20-22 Apr |
| CARABAO FEST Bulacan | 15 May |
| PAHIYAS Quezon | 15 May |
| BARAGATAN Puerto Princesa | 26-28 May |
| PINTADOS Tacloban | 28-30 June |
| PARADA NG LECHON Batangas | 24 June |
| AGGAO NA CAGAYAN / Our Lady of PIAT | 01-03 July |
| DAVAO KADAYAWAN | 27-29 Aug |
| LANZONES FESTIVAL Camiguin | 3rd week Oct |
| MASSKARA FESTIVAL Bacolod | 18-20 Oct |
| HERMOSA ZAMBOANGA | 11-13 Oct |

**Watch out for more festivals**

## COMBINATION DREAM PACKAGES

(Program can be operated any day other than dates specified with a minimum of 6 persons)

***Round Luzon Tour*** - P18,838
(Mnl/Banaue/Tuguegarao/Pagudpud/Laoag/Vigan/Baguio/Mnl)
April 22-27 (5N/6D) (by land)

***Island Combination*** - P6,200
Mnl/Calapan/Boracay/Mnl May 5-9

***Colors of the North*** - P19,450
(Mnl/Laoag/Pagudpud/Vigan/Baguio/Mnl)
May 7-11 (4N/5D) (By land)

***Southern Adventure*** - P19,500
2N Camiguin + 2 N Cagayan de Oro
May 10-14 (4N/5D) (w/ airfare)

***Explore Bicol*** (3N/4D) - P14,800
Sorsogon, Camarines Sur + Albay tour or Misibis Beach tour
May 18-21 (3N/4D) (w/ Airfare)

***Agri-Cultural Iloilo/Guimaras*** - P13,368
May 30-Jun02 (3N/4D) (w/ Airfare)

***Be Cool! South Luzon*** - P15,500
Mnl/Quezon/Naga/Sorsogon/Legaspi/Mnl
Sep 5-9

***Visayas- Islands Best*** - P16,275
Mnl/Cebu/Bohol/Dumaguete/Syquijor/Mnl
Oct 26-31

***Twinning Cebu and Bohol*** (3N/4D)
1N Cebu/2N Bohol
( Any Day )

*RATES ARE VALID UNTIL OCTOBER 15, 2006 BUT ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.*

*RATES MAY GO LOWER OR HIGHER DEPENDING ON THE FLIGHTS AVAILABLE.*

*PACKAGES ARE NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER TYPE OF DISCOUNTING AND PROMOTIONAL OFFER.*

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mediawise communications

| TOUR OPERATOR | TELEPHONE | E-Mail Address | AREA |
|---|---|---|---|
| **METRO MANILA** | | | |
| 1 TRIPS TRAVEL | 811-4115 / 811-4163 | trips@tripstravel-phil.com | Makati |
| 2 ACTION HOLIDAYS | 242-2001 to 04 | actionholidays@yahoo.com | Binondo |
| 3 ADVENTURE INTL | 524 8681 to 84 | julie wong@travelnow.ph | Malate |
| 4 ANNSET HOLIDAYS | 400-6521 to 24 | tours.travel@annsetholidays.com.ph | Malate |
| 5 ARK TRAVEL | 893 7298 / 816-1999 | arktrv@pacific net.ph | Makati |
| 6 AVIAN TRAVEL | 911-3963 / 911-6553 | avian travel@yahoo com | QC |
| 7 BROADWAY TRAVEL | 526 7690 / 521-4965 | broadway@pacific net.ph | Ermita |
| 8 CCT 168 TRAVEL | 687-0129 / 633-4856 | cct168aurora@pacific net.ph | Ortigas Centre |
| 9 CORDYM | 812-2610 / 816-1503 | tracordym@ntt nys com | Makati |
| 10 FRONTLINER | 851-4631 to 33 | frontline812@yahoo.com | Magallanes |
| 11 NEXUS TRAVEL | 978-5589 | inbound-local@nexustravel.com.ph | QC |
| 12 PAN PACIFIC TRAVEL | 525-5611 to 15 | inbpanpacitrvn@skyinet.net | Ermita |
| 13 RAJAH I TOURS | 522 0541 to 48 | sales@rajahtours.com.ph | Ermita |
| 14 SOUTHEAST TRAVEL | 524-5676 to 80 | southeast@skyinet.net | Ermita |
| 15 SUPERSONIC TRAVEL | 734 9581 / 735-8156 | emilsamogar@hotcom@yahoo.com | Quiapo |
| 16 VELCA TRAVEL | 772-1041 / 842-3137 | velca@abacus .com .ph | Muntinlupa |
| 17 VIAJES FILIPINAS | 527-4087 | viajesfil@pacific.net.ph | Intramuros |

| TOUR OPERATOR | TELEPHONE | E_Mail Address |
|---|---|---|
| **CEBU** | | |
| 1 WANDERLANES | 032 231-3935 | wlctour@mozcom.com |
| 2 GRAND HOLIDAYS | 032 231-3131 | ghi@mozcom.com |
| 3 SOUTHWIND TOURS | 032-4172248 to 49 | mail@southwind-online.com |
| **DAVAO** | | |
| 1 TRAVEL ADVANTAGE | 082 305-4079 / 224-6114 | travel advantage@yahoo.com |
| 2 MT APO | 082 221-1729 / 221-8177 | mtapotravel@skyinet.net |
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Photo dated Oct. 1, 1986 showing repairs being carried out on the Chernobyl nuclear plant. On April 26, 1986, a series of explosions ripped through reactor four at the plant sending a huge radioactive cloud into the air in the world's worst civilian nuclear accident. AFP

# Thai protest movement seen losing momentum

BANGKOK—THAI STREET PROtesters who pushed Thaksin Shinawatra out of office have vowed to drive him from politics entirely, but analysts say the movement could lose momentum with the prime minister out of the spotlight and no clear agenda for the country.

A broad coalition of anti-Thaksin groups, known as the People's Alliance for Democracy, had held near-daily rallies for two months to call for the premier's resignation over alleged abuse of power and corruption.

Led by two former Thaksin supporters, an austere retired general and a media tycoon, the alliance drew hundreds of thousands of people mainly from Bangkok's middle class.

But Thailand's "people power" never evolved into a nationwide movement. Even now, Thaksin enjoys solid support among farmers, who account for about 60 percent of the kingdom's 63 million population.

A defiant Thaksin once dismissed the demonstrations as "mobs" while his Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) won nearly 56 percent of the vote in April 2 snap polls boycotted by the opposition.

But after a meeting with revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej on April 4, Thaksin announced he would step down and chose his top deputy and justice minister, Chidchai Vanasathidya, to take the reins of government.

Despite Thaksin's departure, the alliance has threatened to resume protests unless the self-made billionaire completely withdraws from politics by the end of April.

"We want to make sure Thaksin does not run the country again. We want him to leave Thai politics for good," said alliance spokesperson Parnthep Pourpongpan.

But analysts doubt the group can keep up the momentum of the anti-Thaksin campaign.

"They won't survive very long. They are divided," said Dana Dillon, a senior policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation's Asian Studies Center in Washington.

"They must have a clear vision for Thailand. But they don't. Apart from getting rid of Thaksin, they have no agenda. No constitutional reform, no economic policy, no vision for Thailand," Dillon said.

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, professor of political science at Chulalongkorn University, agreed.

"They are very fixated on Thaksin. They think Thaksin has created all the problems in Thailand. They need to be practical and constructive, otherwise we have a dead end," Thitinan said. *AFP*

20 YEARS LATER

# Effects from Chernobyl nuclear disaster linger

CHERNOBYL—TWENTY YEARS ago, explosions at the Chernobyl power plant sent a huge radioactive cloud into the air in the world's worst civilian nuclear accident that still affects millions of people today.

At 1:23 a.m. on April 26, 1986, a series of explosions ripped through reactor four at the plant in the north of what is today Ukraine, near its border with Belarus. Radiation fell across much of Europe.

For days, the Soviet leadership refused to admit—either to its own people or to the world—what had happened less than 100 km north of a major city, Kiev, and near the huge Dniepr River that criss-crossed Ukraine and provided much of its water supply.

Only after the news blackout ended were 135,000 people evacuated from the most affected areas around the plant.

To this day, Chernobyl fuels controversies over the use of nuclear power, attracts tourists and researchers, feeds fears of another release, continues to claim victims, and gobbles huge amounts of international funds.

An army of some 600,000 "liquidators"—firemen, soldiers and civilians—helped to construct a concrete sarcophagus meant to contain the reactor for 20 to 30 years before a more permanent structure could be built.

The fate awaiting these people and others exposed to radiation from the blast is one of the main controversies still surrounding the plant.

In its latest report on the disaster released in September, the United Nations estimated that fewer people will eventually perish than was initially predicted.

The report, the work of some 100 scientists from eight UN agencies, said up to 4,000 would eventually die as a result of the accident, in addition to the nearly 60 people who have already died.

Environmental groups like Greenpeace rejected the findings as "whitewash," collusion "with the nuclear lobby" and "insulting for the victims." They estimate that the death toll will be in the tens of thousands.

In addition to health effects like thyroid cancer, survivors also deal with psychological problems.

A study of more than 2,000 "liquidators" by the Serbsky Psychiatric Institute in Moscow found that two-thirds of them suffered from psychological illnesses.

"Considering their young age at the time of the accident, all of the negative effects have not appeared yet," said Galina Rumyantseva, who led the study.

Regions affected by the accident remain today both socially and economically devastated. Some 350,000 people have been evacuated from the surrounding areas in all. Some 784,320 hectares of prime agricultural land remain ruined, as do 700,000 hectares of forest.

The United Nations estimates that the eventual price tag of the disaster will run to hundreds of billions of dollars.

Today, the sarcophagus over reactor four is cracked and crumbling, raising fears that more radiation can be released.

Some 28 countries have pledged to chip in more than $750 million toward the construction of a new 20,000-ton steel case. The cover is expected to cost between one and two billion dollars and is hoped to be finished by 2012.

But it will take at least a hundred years to safely get rid of dangerous fuel and debris inside the plant, said spokesperson Yulia Marusich. *AFP*

# Yukos founder Khodorkovsky slashed in jail

MOSCOW—MIKHAIL KHODORkovsky, the founder of Russia's Yukos oil company, was slashed with a knife in the Siberian prison where he is serving an eight-year sentence, a statement on his website said on Saturday.

"Mikhail Khodorkovsky woke up in the night and realized that his face was covered in blood. The attacker cut Khodorkovsky's face with a cobbler's knife," the statement said.

But the head of Russia's prison service, Yuri Kalinin, told Itar-Tass news agency that Khodorkovsky's lawyers had blown the incident out of proportion and he had not been cut with a knife.

"Nothing of the sort happened," Kalinin said. "Around 3 o'clock in the morning Khodorkovsky had an argument with a young friend, who gave him a punch on the nose. There was no blood drawn. Khodorkovsky's just got a scratch on his nose."

Khodorkovsky needed stitches and told his lawyers about the attack himself, the statement on his website said. It added that the prison service had not begun a criminal investigation, proof he was denied rights and that he was at greater risk than the authorities admitted.

"Later during a search of the attacker's possessions, an ordinary knife and a blade were discovered. These objects are banned on the prison premises," the statement said.

Khodorkovsky's lawyer, Yuri Shmidt, told Reuters that Khodorkovsky was living in a barracks with either 80 or 160 people, depending on the type of layout.

Kalinin said checks were under way and all the details would be known on Monday.

The attack happened on Thursday night at the penal colony in Chita, 6,500 km east of Moscow, where Khodorkovsky has been incarcerated since October, the statement on his website said.

Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man, was convicted of fraud and tax evasion last year along with another of Yukos' top shareholders, Platon Lebedev.

Both men say they have cut their ties with Yukos, which has been brought to the brink of collapse by Russian tax officials, who paralyzed the company by freezing its assets and demanding $33 billion in back taxes. *Reuters*

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Saturday, April 22, 2006

TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS:
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Hamas told: Adopt Arab peace initiative

CAIRO—ARAB STATES URGED the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority on Saturday to accept an Arab initiative which offers Israel peace in return for land Israel has occupied since 1967.

But Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud al-Zahar, on an Arab tour in urgent search of funds, made no commitment to the initiative, which conflicts with the Hamas movement's goal of a single Islamic state throughout historic Palestine.

Zahar told a news conference at the Arab League he was confident Arab governments would provide money for the authority, which has lost mainly European aid because it refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Zahar met representatives of Arab governments and Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa for more than 2-1/2 hours, with much of the discussion centered on the Arab initiative, launched in 2002 and rejected by Israel.

"All the interventions (by Arab diplomats) spoke about the Arab initiative and its importance to the Arab position and the Palestinian people," Zahar told a news conference with Moussa.

"We will convey what we heard to every Palestinian decision-maker, inside the government and outside, so that we can lay out a clear vision on this initiative," he added.

But Zahar said he was skeptical the initiative offered a quick solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"If the whole world agrees to the Arab initiative, is that a way out? (Late Palestinian President) Yasser Arafat agreed to it before, and the result is well-known.

"The whole problem is with the other side, the Israeli side, which does not respect anything submitted by the world or the Arabs or anyone else," he said.

On the Palestinian government's financial crisis, he said the Arab governments told him Arab support for the Palestinian Authority would continue.

"We are seeking not only the continuation (of Arab aid) but also an increase because of the importance of the situation. I believe that the intention to help the Palestinian people is real," he said. *Reuters*

# No early end in sight to Iraq political crisis

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S SUNNI ARAB and Kurdish leaders warned on Sunday that the long-running political deadlock over Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari was unlikely to end before parliament convenes this week.

Violence has soared in recent months as politicians struggle to form the new government, with rebel attacks Sunday claiming the lives of eight people across Iraq including four in a Baghdad bus bombing.

Iraqi leaders have failed to agree on the Shiite nomination of Jaafari to remain premier, four months after a landmark election for the country's first permanent post-Saddam Hussein government.

Leaders of Sunni and Kurdish parliamentary blocs said negotiations over Jaafari's candidacy were unlikely to find a solution before the assembly meets Monday for only the second time since the Dec. 15 election.

"It will be difficult," said Zhafer al-Ani, spokesperson of the Sunni-led National Concord Front, which has 44 seats in the 275-member parliament.

"We are not optimistic about a decision today before the parliament opens tomorrow as negotiations are very difficult."

Prominent Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Othman said leaders of all political parties would meet Sunday and were even likely to consider whether to attend parliament or not on Monday.

"I do not think they will be able to reach an agreement, especially on all the candidates for key parliamentary posts," Othman told AFP.

Shiite leaders had originally said they would finalize their candidates for the various government posts before Monday.

The Sunnis and Kurds are opposed to Jaafari staying on as premier, accusing him of failing to curb sectarian violence that has engulfed Iraq for the last few months, leaving hundreds of people dead.

Sunnis fear that the Shiites—in a tit-for-tat political move—may oppose their candidates for other key posts. *AFP*

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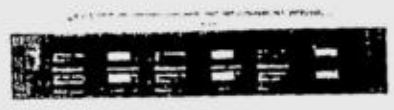

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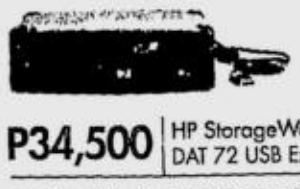

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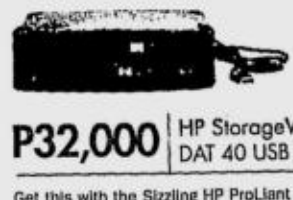

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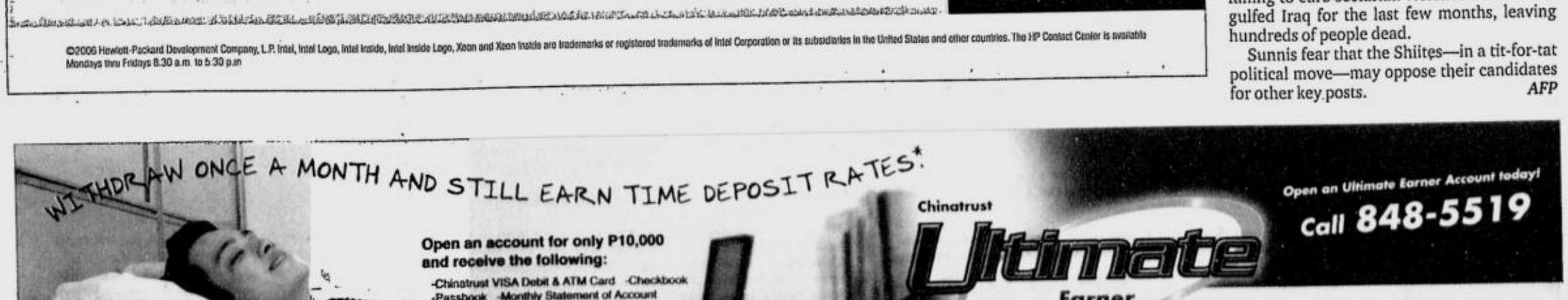

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# Aces subdue Barako

By June Navarro

REYNEL HUGNATAN CAPPED A NEVER-SAY-DIE rally down the stretch with two free throws that lifted Alaska to an 83-82 squeaker over Red Bull last night at the resumption of the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Picking up the rebound after a Nic Belasco miss, Hugnatan fetched a foul from Cyrus Baguio and swung the lead back to Alaska for good with 10 seconds left with his charities.

Lordy Tugade had earlier given Red Bull an 82-81 lead with a three-point play with 21 seconds remaining after the Aces, who ended their three-game losing streak, came up with a 10-0 blast from 71-79.

The Aces improved to 4-3 while handing the Bulls their sixth defeat in nine games.

It was the same Tugade who clustered 10 points highlighted by a triple that rewarded the Bulls with what looked like a solid eight-point lead in the closing minutes.

But Alaska, which endured a three-week losing spell, refused to die with Nic Belasco's two free throws finally pulling the Aces on top at 81-79.

In the second game, Mark Cardona and Harvey Carey both had career-highs to life Talk 'N Text leaned on a big third quarter to hold off Air21, 103-88.

Carey finished with a personal best 30 points and 19 rebounds, shooting 13 of 17 from the field while Cardona matched a career-high with 21 as the Phone Pals leveled to 4-4.

The Express dropped to 3-6.

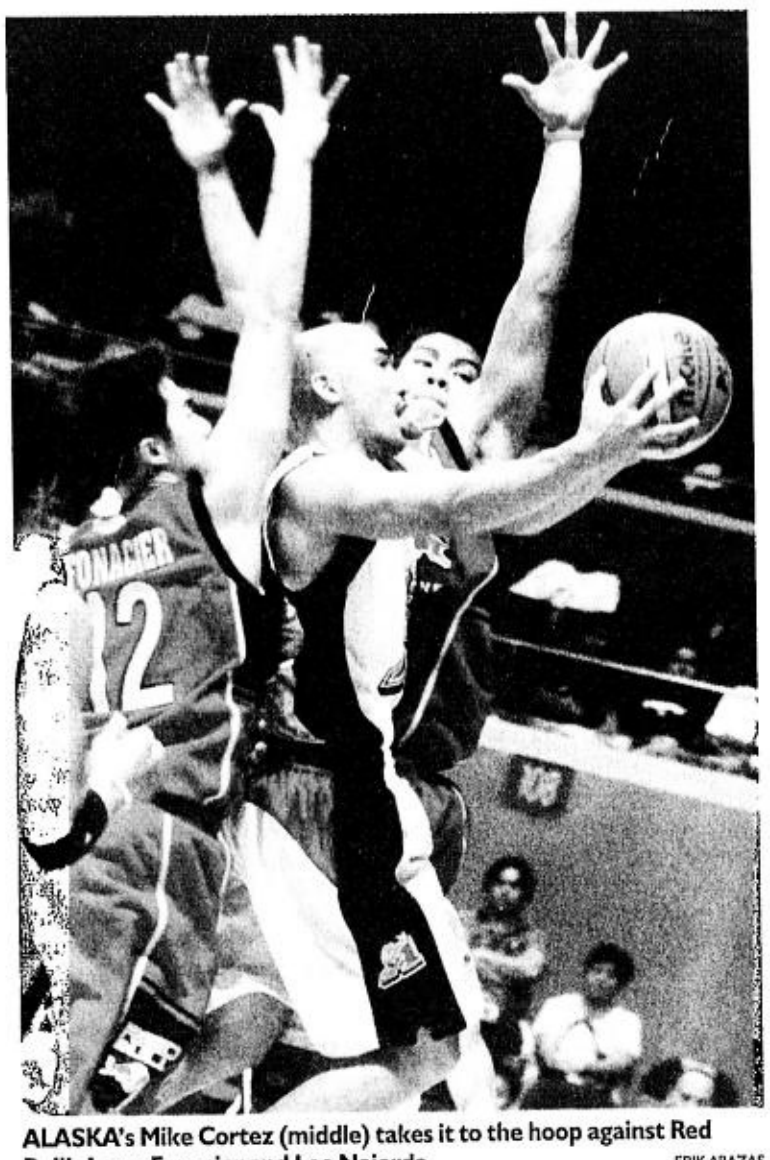
**The scores:**

**First Game**

**ALASKA 83**—Belasco 24, Thos 13, Cortez 10, Cariaso 9, Wilson 8, Hugnatan 8, Allado 8, Dela Cruz 3, Laure 9, Bajar 0.

**RED BULL 82**—Tugade 22, Baguio 11, Bugia 10, Valenzuela 9, Fonacier 8, Villanueva 8, Pennisi 5, Najorda 4, Ybañez 4, Alvarez 1, Robinson 0.

**Quarters:** 22-16, 42-40, 60-58, 83-82.



ALASKA's Mike Cortez (middle) takes it to the hoop against Red Bull's Larry Fonacier and Leo Najorda. ERIK ARAZAS

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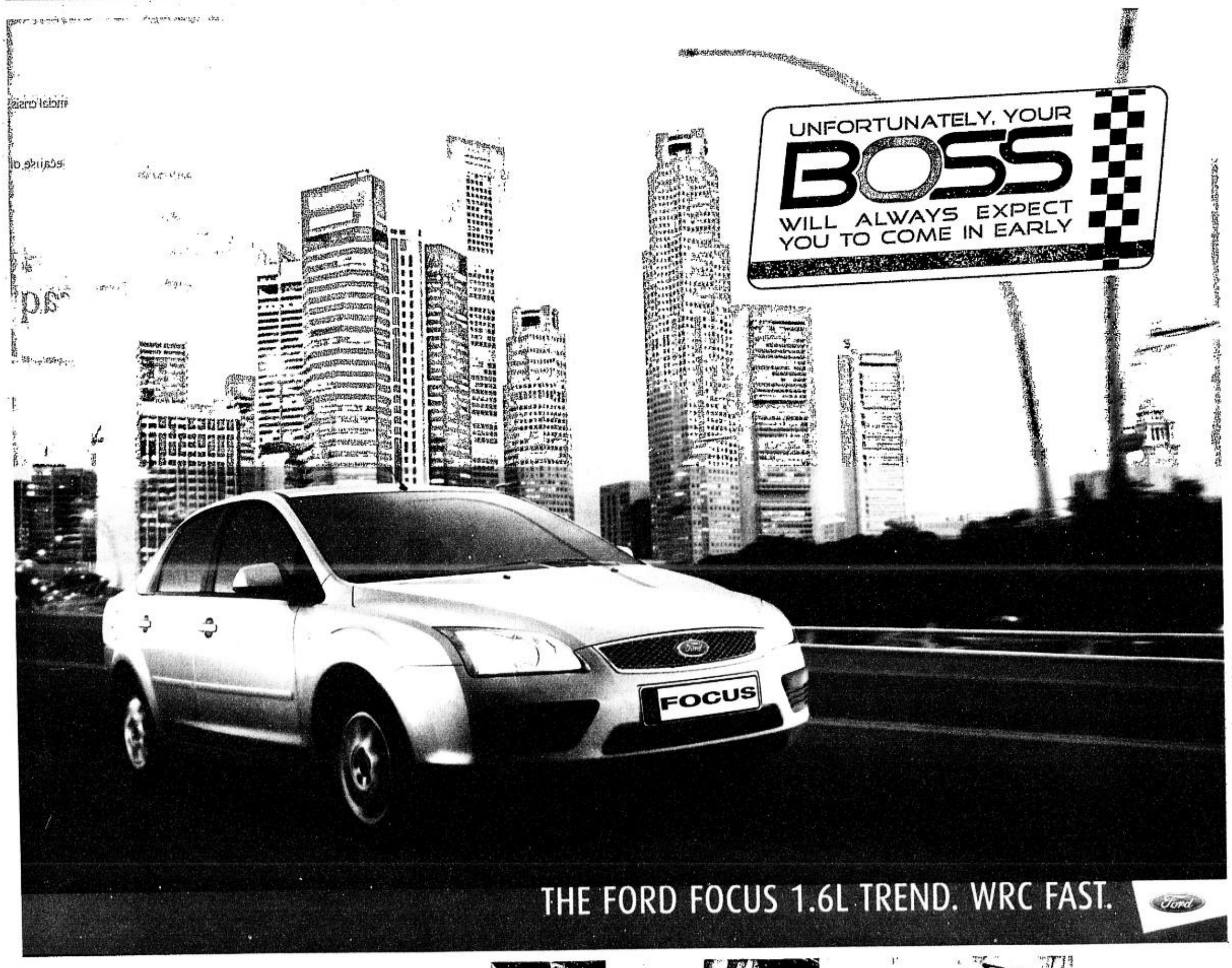

# Antonio snares Bangkok crown for 3rd time

ANTONIO: Back in top form

**FILIPINO GRANDMASTER ROGELIO "Joey" Antonio Jr. drew his last two matches and captured the 6th annual Bangkok Chess Club Open title Sunday at the Century Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.**

The 2003-2004 champion Antonio drew with Thai FMs Banjuab Jiravorasuk (eighth round) and Boonsueb Saeheng (final round) to win the weeklong event organized by the Bangkok Chess Club with 7.5 points. He pocketed $900.

A mainstay of the Philippine Army team, Antonio, from Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, also ruled the blitz side event with a perfect 21 points out of 21 games.

After losing to Antonio in the seventh round, Fide Master Rico "Kokoy" Salimbagat, who hails from Tanauan City in Batangas, demolished Sathit Kasetchol of India and FM Jiravorasuk in the last two rounds to finish solo second with 7 points.

Anthony Makinano of Cebu City wound up with 6.5 points to share third to sixth place in the Group A division with IM Chandrashekshar Gokhale of India, FM Saeheng and Wisuwat Theerapabpasist of Thailand.

Dr. Alfredo Paez of Cabuyao, Laguna and Rodolfo Panopio Jr. of Calamba, Laguna landed in 20th place with 5 points while Noel Pinic of Benguet ended up 44th with 4.0 points followed by Henry Calacday of Cebu at 47th with 3.5 points.

Francis William Sagyaman of Baguio City completed the country's domination of the tournament by topping the Group B section with 6.5 points.

Sagyaman secured the title by drawing with Gowda R. Hanumantha in the final round, finishing a full point ahead of solo second placer Crowdy.

The stint of Antonio and Salimbagat, who is also an army chess team mainstay, were bankrolled by NCFP president Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr., NCFP secretary-general Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino Jr., Brig. Gen. Alfonso Bernarte and Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

GM Ian Rogers of Australia and GM Eugene Torre of the Philippines shared top honors in the last edition. Antonio missed the event as he played in the HB Global Chess Challenge in Minneapolis.

*Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

# RP chess team playoffs today

THE REMAINING SLOT IN THE Philippine men's and women's team to the 2006 World Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy, next month will be decided in a round robin playoff starting today in Tagaytay City.

Twelve-year-old Fide Master Wesley So, International Master Petronio Roca and national masters John Paul Gomez, Roderick Nava, Mirabeau Maga and Rolando Nolte are seeking the last of six men's slot.

The women hopefuls for the fourth berth are IM Beverly Mendoza and NMs Loreshyl Cuizon and Shercila Cua and Kimberly Jane Cunanan.

The deciding matches start at 1 p.m. and hosted by NCFP secretary-general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino Jr.

NM Darwin Laylo and FM Oliver Dimakiling finished 1-2 in the national team eliminations last Wednesday to join the seeded GMs Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio in the men's squad.

IM Sheerie Joy Lomibao topped the women's elims ahead of WNMs Catherine Perena and Sherilly Cua as they clinched the top three Olympiad berths.

The nationals will start their formal training in Tagaytay City under the guidance of NCFP president Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. and Mayor Tolentino this coming Wednesday.

The RP teams and the training pool will later proceed to Camp John Hay in Baguio City to resume their Olympiad preparation through the initiative of former Benguet Gov. and NCFP director Raul "Rocky" Molintas in close cooperation with Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon and councilor Jose "Joe" Molintas.

*Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

# National Open trackfest starts May 4

FERRERA

THE COUNTRY'S TOP TRACKsters mix it up with local upstarts and a handful of foreign invitees when the 2006 National Open Invitational Athletics Championships opens on May 4 at the Rizal Memorial Track and Field Stadium.

The organizing Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa) estimates that around 800 athletes will take part in the competition, which will run under the theme "Athletics, Go! Narcotics, No!"

"Just like before we're looking at it as one of our major talent discovery program, and we expect to find new talents that we could add to our national pool," said Patafa president Go Teng Kok.

Among the big names seeing in this event supported by Milo and the Philippine Sports Commission are 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold medalists Henry Dagmil, Arniel Ferrera, Rene Herrera, Ernie Candelario, Jimar Aing, Danilo Fresnido, Marestella Torres, Mercidita Manipol, and Cristabel Martes, as well as veteran internationalists Eduardo Buenavista and Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito.

They will be pitted against hordes of upcoming local talents as well as bets from neighboring Southeast Asian countries led by perennial powerhouse Thailand.

Patafa has also sent invitations to Malaysia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Sri Lanka, and Papua New Guinea.

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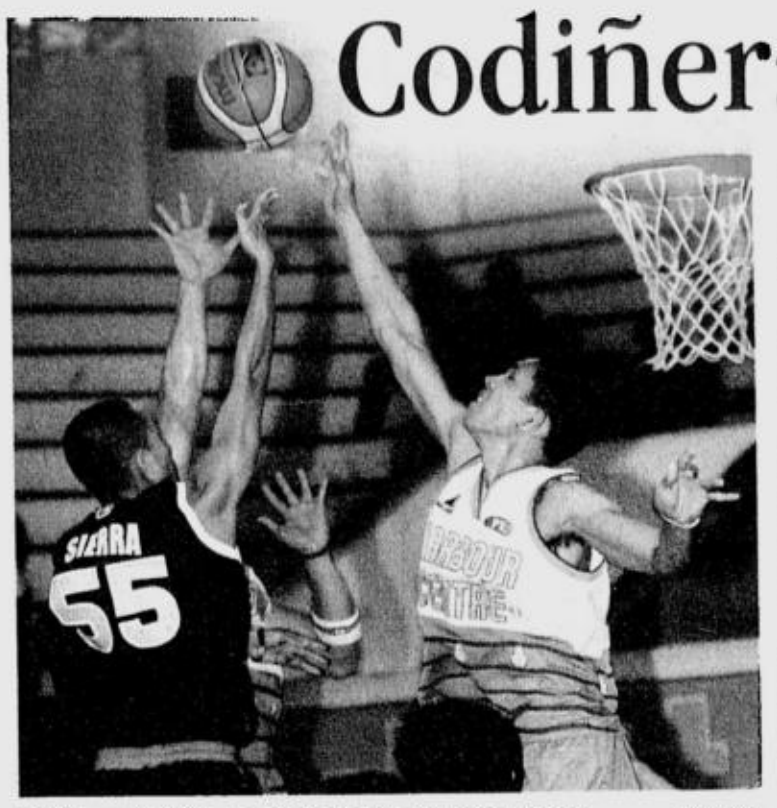
# Codiñera still adjusting to new role



JAY Sierra (left) is one of Teletech's promising players. ERIK ARAZAS

By Jasmine W. Payo

**ADJUSTING TO HIS NEW ROLE HAS BEEN AMONG THE CONCERNS of TeleTech rookie coach Jerry Codiñera.**

In less than two months, the veteran player turned coach had to learn the different demands of his new job.

"Coaching is a lot different," said Codiñera, the former star center of Purefoods in the PBA. "It's a more personalized work. I'm more of a psychologist. But I'm also just a conduit. I'm only trying to guide them."

Codiñera, actually, has been patient with team. As the league newcomers, the Titans have registered only one win in six games in the PBL Unity Cup. But the defensive whiz named as one of PBA's all-time greats isn't roughing his team up for it.

"It's unfair to my players if I expect too much," said Codiñera.

In fact, no one understands more than Codiñera that his roster of unheralded players needs more time to adapt.

"My players are adjusting to their newfound roles," said Codiñera, who's been turning to Ariel Capus, Nino Gelig, Ronnie Bughao and Mel Latoreno. "They didn't get enough minutes before. This is a big transition for them."

Codiñera admittedly felt surprised when the Titans stunned Granny Goose for their first victory last April 4. Overcoming a huge 18-point deficit, the rookie

CODIÑERA

squad pulled off a 78-63 triumph over the Tortillos.

"I didn't expect to win this early," said the 6-foot-5 Codiñera.

Yet, Codiñera said he's also impressed that his Titans displayed competitiveness against league veterans Montaña, Rain or Shine and Magnolia in the past weeks.

In their five setbacks, the Titans dropped their games by an average margin of only 7.5 points.

"I try to inculcate into my players that we can compete as long as we play hard, even if we're undersized," he said. "We're still trying to correct bad habits. We're coming up with the necessary adjustments."

Meanwhile, action resumes tomorrow with league leaders Montaña and Toyota Otis vying to stay on top in their respective matches.

Totyota Otis will tackle last conference's champion Magnolia at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. battle between Montaña and Hapee-PCU.

# BAP set to revive Champs tourney

**THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines, expelled by the Philippine Olympic Committee but recognized by the international basketball federation (Fiba), will continue its plans and programs for 2006 starting with the revival of the National Battle of Champions on May 14-30.**

The event is organized by the Federation of School Sports Associations of the Philippines (Fessap) under NCRAA president and chair of BAP Commission for School League Organization Tisha Abundo.

The Yñares Center in Antipolo City is being eyed as venue since BAP secretary general Graham Lim already had initial talks with Rizal sports officials regarding the event last month.

The revival of the National Battle of Champions will be the pilot project of Fessap, which was established in 1999 and is now the umbrella organization of school-based leagues like the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa), the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA), Colleges Universities Sports Association (Cusa), the National Athletic Association of Schools and Universities Association (Naascu), States, Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (Scuaa), the Leyte Amateur Athletic Association, the Philippine Schools and Universities Athletic Association (PSCUAA), Uscaa and others.

Twenty teams are initially being eyed to participate as each of the 10 member leagues of Fessap will be allowed to field two teams. Aside from the UCAA, NCRAA, Naascu, Cusa, Scuaa and the PSCUAA, the other competing leagues are Uscaa, the Bacolod-based Nopcea under the helm of Anthony Agustin of West Negros College, Prisaa represented by Rizal Province and the Southern Tagalog Athletic Association.

Lim is expected to present the project to Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares following the approval of the event by the BAP executive council headed by BAP president and former senator Joey Lina.

The other cities being considered as hosts are San Juan under Mayor JV Ejercito and Manila through Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza.

Lina sees the event as a rich source of players who will don the country's colors in future international competition once the Fiba suspension on the Philippines is lifted.

Aside from Abundo, the other Fessap officials are Robert Milton of Scuaa and Dr. Jay Adalem of Naascu, vice presidents; Rolando Tumapat of Cusa, secretary general; Ariel Lladores of Uscaa, auditor; and Anthony Agustin of West Negros College, director.

The champion team will represent the Philippines in the Thailand Prince Cup tentatively scheduled in October.

# Runnex races at UP-Diliman

THE COUNTRY'S LONGEST-EXISTING RUNning club celebrates its 23rd year with the PowerBar-Runnex Anniversary 5K-10K on May 7 inside the UP-Diliman campus.

This was announced recently by Dr.Alberto Verzola, newly elected president of the Running Executives of the Philippines (Runnex).

Also supported by Pharmaton, RFM Corp., San Miguel Corp., Globe Telecoms, David's Salon, Viva Mineral Water, Gatorade and Nike, last year's event had Jojit de Asis and veteran Liza Yambao winning their respective categories in the 10K distance race.

There will also be age groups in the men's category for both distances, 18 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, and 60 and above while there is no age group for the distaff side. Registration forms are available at the Runnex office at the Quezon Circle.

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# Warriors watch their season fall apart anew

LOS ANGELES—TROY MURPHY SAT EXpressionless at his dressing-room cubicle Tuesday at Staples Center as he broke down another Golden State Warriors loss.

And it didn't take long before Murphy was discussing Golden State's disappointing 31-47 record more than the loss to the Lakers.

"We started the year with so much hope," Murphy said in a hushed tone. "But somewhere along the line, things just fell apart."

The hows and whys of the Warriors' collapse were issues for another day. Murphy has a hundred or so theories why a team predicted to be in the playoffs will finish well off the postseason pace, but with a bus to board and a plane to catch he didn't have the time to explore each and every one of them.

This much he does know: He and the Warriors are fully expected to be preparing for the playoffs right now, not making offseason vacation plans.

And for that, he's feeling pretty bitter.

"It's just been a major disappointment all the way around," Murphy said.

The Warriors, who haven't been to the postseason in 12 years, were everybody's chic pick to finally break through this year.

Things started well enough—the Warriors were 12-6 at one point and pushing Phoenix for first place in the Pacific Division lead —but from that point on it seems nothing has gone right.

From injuries to chemistry problems to bad defense and inexperience, the Warriors ran the gamut on negative karma. And when Baron Davis went down in February with an ankle injury, any remaining hope of the playoffs went right down with him.

Davis was playing good, not great, before the injury, averaging 18 points and eight assists. Jason Richardson played well all year despite a bum knee, averaging 23.4 points, and Murphy was his usual dependable self at 14 points and 10 rebounds per game.

But Mike Dunleavy has been a disappointment since being picked third overall in 2002, averaging just 11 points this season, and the Warriors' inability to defend consistently has doomed them to another year out of the playoffs.

"It's tough to take anything positive from this season," Murphy said. "We have a lot of talent, I just don't understand why we can't put it all together." *New York Times News Service*

# Bucks, Pacers use some Magic to reach playoffs

**MILWAUKEE—THE MILwaukee Bucks gave up too many points in a 120-114 defeat to the Atlanta Hawks Saturday, but the team still had a reason to celebrate, clinching a guaranteed playoff spot thanks to a basketball match held elsewhere.**

The Bucks secured their Eastern Conference playoff place after the Orlando Magic beat the Philadelphia 76ers—but can still finish anywhere from fifth to eighth in the conference.

The Hawks got double-digit efforts from six players, including a 16-point night from Zaza Pachulia and 15 points each from Donta Smith and Joe Johnson, to register their first road win in 12 games.

Josh Smith poured in a career-high 28 points and Marvin Williams added 19.

The Bucks' Michael Redd hit a game-high 36 points and dished out eight assists, while Andrew Bogut chipped in with a career-best 24 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists.

"It was disappointing losing a game like this, giving up the points we gave up," Bucks coach Terry Stotts told reporters.

In Orlando, Dwight Howard bagged a season-high 28 points and pulled down a career-high 26 rebounds as the streaking Magic kept their playoff hopes alive with a 102-97 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Hedo Turkoglu contributed 23 points and Jameer Nelson nailed 21 points as the Magic rolled to their season-high eighth straight win.

Orlando sits just 2 1/2 games out of the Eastern conference's eighth and final playoff spot currently occupied by the Chicago Bulls.

Philadelphia, ninth with two games to play, has dropped five of their last eight and is battling just to make the playoffs.

Allen Iverson hit a game-high 36 points, while Chris Webber had a double-double with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

In Charlotte, the Indiana Pacers also clinched a playoff spot despite falling, 92-91, in overtime to the Bobcats, thanks again to the 76ers loss to the Magic.

Primoz Brezec bagged 18 points and snared eight rebounds to help the Bobcats to their third win in four games.

Jermaine O'Neal had a game high 30 points and pulled down eight boards in a losing cause while Stephen Jackson and Peja Stojakovic each contributed 18 points.

In Houston, Mike Miller scored 25 points, Shane Battier hit his first eight shots and added 19, as the Memphis Grizzlies completed the franchise's first season sweep of the Rockets via a 93-81 rout.

Pau Gasol added 16 points and 10 rebounds for playoff-bound Memphis, which won for the sixth time in seven games.

Juwan Howard scored 16 points on 5-for-18 shooting for the Rockets, who've dropped seven of their last eight as they limp to the end of their injury-ravaged season.

With two games left, Houston is already assured of its worst record since the 2001-02 team finished 28-54. The Rockets' home record fell to 15-25, their most losses at home since 1982-83, when they lost 32 during a 14-68 season.

In Denver, Mike Bibby scored 23 points and the Sacramento Kings crushed the Nuggets, 100-82, to inch closer to its eighth straight playoff berth.

Kenny Thomas added 18 points for Sacramento, which moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Utah for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. A win in the Kings' final two games or a loss by Utah will secure the playoff spot for Sacramento.

Ruben Patterson scored 20 points to lead the Nuggets, who trailed the entire second half.

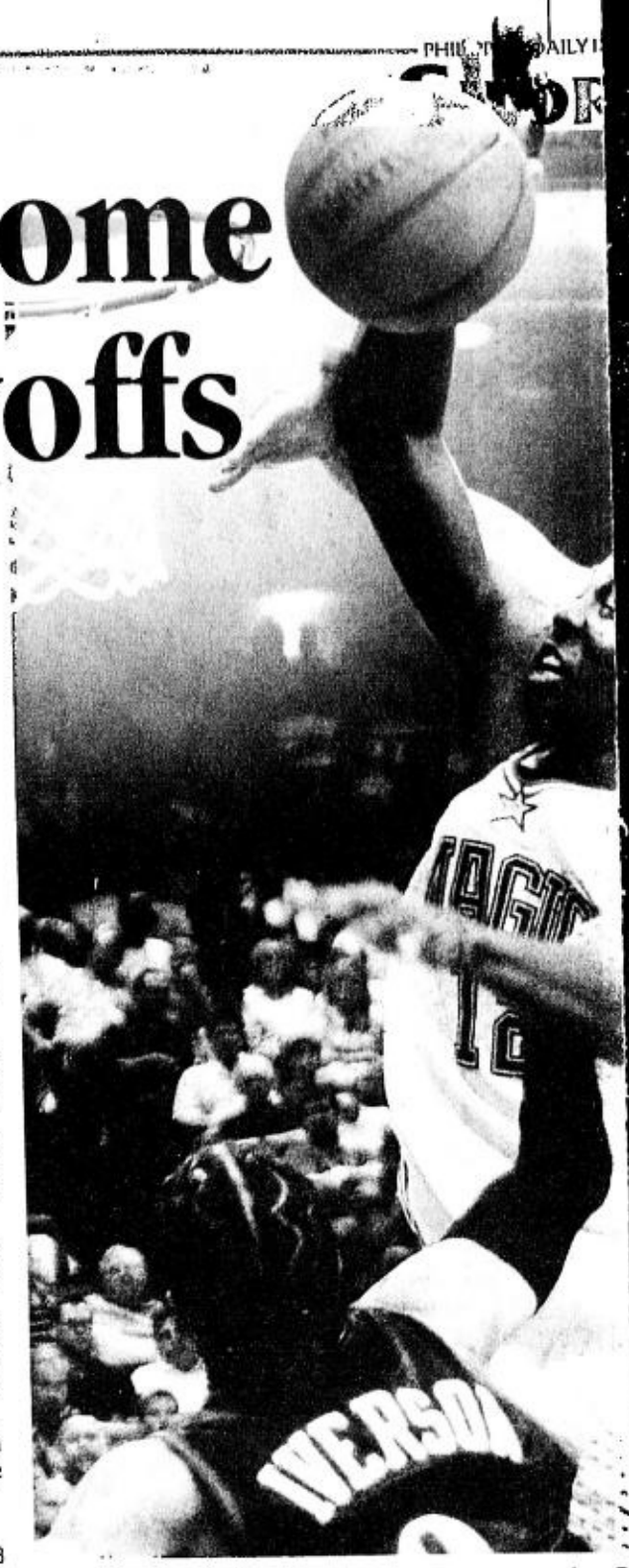
In Portland, Oregon, Ike Diogu had 15 points and eight rebounds to lead short-handed Golden State Warriors past the Trail Blazers, 86-81.

Juan Dixon and Martell Webster each had 17 for the Blazers, who have the worst record in the NBA. AP, Reuters

**NBA on TV:**

**SOLAR SPORTS**—Boston vs New Jersey (8 a.m.)

**RPN-9**—Cleveland vs Washington (7:30 p.m.)




**ORLANDO'S** Dwight Howard (center) goes up against P Howard's heroics failed to save his team's season, but it g

# Swollen elbow: Bonds' latest problem

**BONDS** AP

LOS ANGELES—BELEAGURED SAN Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds says he has bone chips in his left elbow, and he told MLB.com he wouldn't undergo surgery.

For the time being, Bonds says, he plans to play on, even though he told the website the ailing joint was swollen "almost twice the size" of his right elbow.

"I'm going to keep playing until it blows up," Bonds said. "If I have to have a procedure, then I'm done. Finished."

The injury is just the latest bad news for Bonds, who has been unable to shake a cloud of doping suspicions first spawned by the Balco steroid distribution scandal.

Bonds was among the elite sportsmen and women who testified before a grand jury investigating the San Francisco laboratory, and Greg Anderson, Bonds' personal trainer, was among four men eventually convicted in the case.

On Thursday, CNN—citing unnamed sources—reported that federal prosecutors were investigating whether Bonds committed perjury when he testified he had never used steroids.

Bonds has consistently denied using performance enhancing drugs, but the speculation was fanned prior to the start of the season by the publication of the book "Game of Shadows," which purports to detail an elorate doping program from 1998-2002 by Bonds.

That book helped prompt major league baseball to launch an independent investigation of doping in the game.

Bonds is not the only baseball player who has been tainted, but he has drawn the spotlight thanks to his home run exploits.

He entered the 2006 major league baseball season with 708 career home runs, six shy of matching Babe Ruth for second on the all-time list and 47 behind Hank Aaron's all-time mark. *AFP*

# Swiss Schnyder ends Henin-Hardenne Family streak

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLIna—Justine Henin-Hardenne lost for the first time at the Family Circle Cup, falling to Patty Schnyder, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, in the semifinals Saturday.

The top-seeded Henin-Hardenne, who was the defending tournament champion, had won 14 straight matches here. It was Schnyder's first win over Henin-Hardenne in seven meetings dating back to 2001.

Schnyder, the No. 3 seed, next plays Nadia Petrova, who is looking for her second straight WTA title. The second-seeded Petrova advanced to the final with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over doubles partner Anna-Lena Groenefeld.

Schnyder of Switzerland, the Family Circle runner-up in 2002 and ranked ninth in the world, was playing in her third semifinal in Charleston in as many years.

She wondered at times whether she would ever beat Henin-Hardenne.

"This is huge," Schnyder said. "I really think she is the greatest clay-court player there is at the moment. It's just amazing that I could come back and win it at the end."

Henin-Hardenne had control at the beginning of the match, which featured long baseline rallies. She broke Schnyder in the opening game and led, 5-1, in the first set. During that set, Schnyder scored four points on Henin-Hardenne's serve.

But Schnyder, who had six aces during the match, held serve to open the second set, broke Henin-Hardenne at love in the second game and the Belgian never seemed to recover.

In the third set, Henin-Hardenne was up briefly 1-0 before Schnyder rattled off four straight games—saving two break points—to put the match out of reach.

"I had control of the match in the first set. I was playing pretty well and then I lost a bit of my concentration for a few games," Henin-Hardenne said. "Then the match turned completely and she was having control of the points."

Henin-Hardenne was philosophical about the loss and the end of her winning streak here.

"It's always disappointing to lose, but that's tennis," she said.

With her win, Petrova will improve two spots to her highest ranking at No. 5 on the WTA Tour. Her previous high was No. 6 last year. Petrova won last week at Amelia Island, Florida, and last month at Doha, Qatar. *AP*

**SCHNYDER** celebrates her win.

# Fish reaches US clay court fin

HOUSTON—MARDY FISH ADVANCED to the final of the US Clay Court Championship when fifth-seeded Tommy Haas retired after five games Saturday because of pain in his right wrist.

The only clue Haas was feeling discomfort came a couple of games into the match when he began to squeeze his right hand into a fist to try to loosen up his wrist.

Down, 1-4, in the first set, the German walked toward his chair on the changeover and told the umpire he could not continue. He then went to the net to talk to Fish and show him where on his wrist he was feeling the pain.

A couple of minutes later he told the crowd the wrist had been giving him trouble the past couple of days.

"I'm sorry I can't compete tonight," Haas said. "I was feeling pain every time I hit the ball and therefore you can't really compete at this level, so it's unfortunate for me."

Fish said he had no idea his opponent was in pain.

"I was completely shoc American said. "But I kn wrists."

Fish had two wrist su 2005. He will play Jurgen Austria in Sunday's final. M seventh-seed Paul Goldstein earlier Saturday.

Fish said he saw that Ha his usual "fired up" self

"He missed some shots in ning there where he just do

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hiladelphia's Allen Iverson (left) and Kyle Korver. ive free playoff passes to two others. AP

# Ochoa closes out wire-to-wire win; Delasin ties for 9th

LAS VEGAS—LORENA OCHOA REbounded from a painful playoff loss at the year's first major with her first victory of the season, shooting a closing 6-under 66 Saturday to win the Takefuji Classic.

Ochoa, who has lost twice in playoffs this year, wrapped up the 54-hole event at Las Vegas Country Club at 19-under 197, three shots in front of Seon Hwa Lee and five ahead of Brittany Lincicome.

Filipino-American Dorothy Delasin finished 10 shots down in a tie for ninth to 11th places, shooting a final day 709 for a 207 total. The Philippines Jennifer Rosales finished at 217.

Delasin earned $22,202 while Rosales pocketed $ 2,134.

Leading from the first round, the victory was in dramatic contrast to Ochoa's fade in the US LPGA Tour's last tournament, the Kraft Nabisco Championship two weeks ago.

Ochoa had led the Nabisco with a 62 the first day, remained in the lead the next two rounds and began the final day with a three-shot lead.

But she struggled on the front nine on her way to a closing 72 at Mission Hills Country Club to allow Karrie Webb to catch up. Webb then made a 7-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to deny Ochoa her first major championship.

The 24-year-old Ochoa, from Guadalajara, Mexico, opened with a 63 in Las Vegas, stayed two shots in front with a wind-blown 68 the second day, then clinched the title with her fine closing round.

Ochoa smiled as she walked to the 18th tee with a three-shot lead. After she hit her second shot on the 495-yard par 5 over the water and to the back fringe on the final hole, she broke into a big grin. She chipped within 5 feet, then rolled the ball firmly into the center of the cup to punctuate the victory with her sixth birdie of the day.

Friends and family immediately surrounded her, laughing, spraying her with beer and champagne and hugging her.

That too, was in marked contrast to the finish of the Nabisco, when Ochoa fought back tears.

A year ago, she had a 74 in the first day of the Las Vegas tournament before charging with rounds of 63-65 to finish second, two shots behind Wendy Ward.

Lee also shot a closing 66 to finish alone in second after Lincicome hit into the water in front of No. 18 and took a bogey for a 69. *AP*

REUTERS

LORENA Ochoa holds up her trophy.

VOLVO OPEN

# 'Flying Sikh' son soars; RP golfers falter

BEIJING—INDIA'S JEEV MILKHA SINGH held his nerve to finally claim his first European Tour title with a one-shot victory at the co-sanctioned China Open on Sunday.

The son of famed Olympic athlete Milkha Singh, "the flying Sikh," Singh shot a final round 70 to finish at 10 under par for the tournament as his main challengers fell by the wayside.

Filipinos Frankie Miñoza and Angelo Que hardly made a dent in the standings, finishing near the bottom of the pack. Miñoza fired a 76 for a 295, 17 shots off pace. Que had a 75 for a 298 total.

While the high winds that wreaked havoc on Saturday's third round at the Honghua Golf Club eased up for the final round, good scoring was still at a premium.

Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano dropped a shot at the 18th to fall to 70 for the day and finished second on nine under for the tournament.

Briton David Lynn, the leader after the second and third rounds, finished a shot further back after a disappointing 73 with four bogeys and three birdies.

Singh was the first Indian to qualify for the European Tour in 1997 but, plagued by wrist injuries, he played without success until 2002 before returning to the Asian Tour.

He will take home a check for $300,000, dwarfing his earnings in the last three years.

The 34-year-old started the day in a tie for second but dropped a shot at the opening hole, before hitting back with birdies at the third, fifth and seventh.

At the 11th, his tee shot went into trees and a spectator picked up the ball and threw it away. The offender received a kick from another spectator but Singh maintained his concentration and found a shot that enabled him to save par. *Reuters*

# *Bogey costs Furyk solo Heritage golf lead*

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLIna—Jim Furyk's bogey on the 18th hole dropped him into a tie for the lead with Aaron Baddeley after three rounds of the Verizon Heritage on Saturday.

Furyk had a 68 and Baddeley a 66 to finish tied at 14-under, three strokes ahead of Billy Mayfair (68) at Harbour Town Golf Links.

Furyk started the round ahead by two over the 25-year-old Australian, lost that lead on the front nine yet rallied to move a stroke in front with three straight birdies on Nos. 15-17.

But Furyk put his approach on 18 in a bunker behind the lighthouse hole's green and couldn't save par. Baddeley made par from right of the green.

Furyk is trying for his first victory since last year's Western Open. Baddeley has not won a tour event.

Mayfair, who lost this tournament to Jose Coceres in a 2001 playoff, had birdies on two of his final four holes.

Ernie Els, the hightest ranked player in the field here after the Masters, had the best score of the round at 65. Still, that left him and Jerry Kelly, tied at 10 under, well behind.

Furyk's largely solid play disappeared on the front nine, missing par saves of less than 10 feet on the seventh and eight holes. His rally started with a birdie on the 12th hole and kept going down the stretch with birdie putts of 6, 2 and 11 feet.

Baddeley will have a very long Sunday. He's scheduled to speak at the tournament's Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m. before his final round pairing with Furyk.

After the first two rounds, it seemed like the most memorable part of Els' visit to the island resort would be the morning bike rides with his family.

He was eight shots behind after the first round and seven strokes down when he teed off for the third round. Els quickly showed the form that's made him No. 5 in the world with birdies on four of his first five holes.

But Els stumbled badly with a bogey on the par-3 seventh and a double-bogey on the eighth. Els' first try at blasting out of a greenside bunker on No. 8 ended with his club nipping the wood tie framing the trap and missing the ball. *AP*

# al with ease

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period," he said. "I would like to say that I came out and hit the ball pretty good but he gave me a lot in the beginning."

Both finalists are unseeded, a first since the tournament moved to Houston in 2001. The last time two unseeded players vied for the clay court title was in 1996 in Pinehurst, North Carolina, when Mats Wilander lost to Fernando Meligeni.

It will be Melzer's third final and Fish's eighth. *AP*

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# Tambogon, Kwon win at Eagle Ridge

JAN TAMBOGON AND KOREAN LASS KWON Ye Seul are on their way to the prestigious National Tournament of Club Champions.

Tambogon and Kwon earned the right to represent the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in next month's NTCC when they topped their club championships in Gen. Trias, Cavite, recently.

Tambogon hacked out an 11 and 9 rout of Japanese expatriate Fujio Goto for the men's title while Kwon dominated fellow Korean Park Ha Ye Jin, 7&6, in the finals.

Tambogon and Kwon will be battling representatives of at least 36 other clubs in the NTCC co-presented by HSBC and INQUIRER Golf slated on May 15-21 at the four championship courses of Eagle Ridge.

Park ousted defending champion Nila Patricio in the semifinals, 5&4, while Kwon posted a similar result against Roh Kyung Ae.

The men's semis saw fourth seed Tambogon edge No. 1 ranked Garry Sales, 1 up, and No. 6 Goto trounce No. 7 Manfred Guangko, 6&5.

The other men's division winners of this year's Eagle Ridge club championships were An Youn Hwan in Class B, Jong Won Seo in Class C and Stephen Albano in Class D. The seniors title went to Mizuho Uchida.

An dumped Rey Ronquillo, 5&4; Jong proved too classy for Sang Ki Chun, 7&6; Albano made short work of Yokota Keiichi, 5&3, and Uchida downed Vic Onella, 5&3.

Various summer activities for members and guests are ongoing at Eagle Ridge, the country's biggest golf club which also has amenities for basketball, tennis, swimming, badminton, bowling and table tennis.

SUPERAL

DE VILLA

# Callaway Jr World slots up for grabs

**FREE TRIPS TO THE CALLAWAY JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS in San Diego, California, in July will be disputed in a two-week qualifying starting today at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club and the Riviera executive course in Cavite.**

The biggest names in the local jungolf scene are trooping to the two courses in search of the free tickets provided by major sponsor Philippine Airlines in the first 54 holes of a 108-hole qualifier under the Samsung Jungolf Tour.

Leading the cast are Wolen Superal, who posted a record-breaking victory in the 11-12 year division of the annual Junior World meet at Singing Hills last year, and reigning Philippine Ladies Open champion Debbie de Villa.

Getting back to form after a hip surgery that sidelined him for more than six months, the big boy now campaigning in Class B (13-14 years) will be aiming for win No. 2 in the summer circuit.

Backing chief backers Samsung and PAL in the tourney staged by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines in coordination with the Federation of Golf Clubs in the Philippines are co-sponsors Titliest, Mizuno, La Jolla, Taylor Made, Wilson, Ping, Auto Magic, Unilever, MMCI Air Liquid, INQUIRER Golf and Michael Guy.

He beat his older rivals in Class A (15-17 years), emerging the overall individual champion of the Jungolf Interclub at Malaray-at three weeks ago.

There are 159 kids in the bloated roster and among them are the country's multititled top guns: former world champion Dottie Ardina, Tonton Asistio, Miguel Tabuena, Andie Unson, JR Gonzales, AR Ramos and Marcel Puyat.

Asistio, a member of the national training pool, is the heavy favorite in boys Class A.

Competitions in Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D will be held at Sherwood Hills while those in Class E and Class F will be at Riviera.

From Sherwood Hills, the series moves to Canlubang for the final half of the eliminations next week.

Jungolf chair Amalia Montecillo and president Bang Mamaril said that the strong performance of the Philippines in the Junior World has opened the way for more local jungolfers to participate in one of the biggest tournaments in the world.

The country sent its biggest contingent to the Junior World last year and the number might be exceeded this year. Wolen Superal was the lone winner while Tonton Asistio became the first RP player to finish among the Top 20 in almost a dozen years.

# HK, New Zealand head crack field

TWO-TIME CHAMPION Daniel Lee Chi-wo leads a strong Hong Kong team in the 2006 12th Legenda-Subic Bay International Triathlon on May 7 at the Boardwalk area of Subic Bay Freeport.

Lee Chi Wo, who won back-to-back titles in 2000 and 2001 and has been campaigning in the strong European triathlon circuit, will be joined by U-23 triathletes Joe Dick Tam, Chun Shing Hsie, Lau Chin Yin, Leung Chin Yin, and recently crowned women's division Asian Aquathlon champion Tania Mak So Ning.

With his familiarity with both the race course and local weather conditions, Lee Chi Wo has been installed as one of the early favorites in this year's event hosted anew by the SBMA and co-sponsored by Speedo, PowerBar, David's Salon and Spa, Asian Centre for Institution Phils., PSC, Metro Alliance Group, Grand Séasons Hotel, and with Legenda Hotel as title sponsor.

Two first-timers but elite triathletes from New Zealand, Liam Scopes and Dylan McNeice have also confirmed their participation in this ITU and Asia Cup Series event and should be among the top seeds, according to TRAP president Tom Carrasco Jr.

Also being awaited is confirmation of entries from other Pan Pacific countries like Japan, China, Macau, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, India and Australia.

LEE: 2001 titlist

Last year, Israeli Ran Alterman won the event.

Registration is going on with entry forms available at all Speedo concept stores in ATC, SM Megamall, Glorietta, Iloilo and Cebu and at the POC office at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Inquiries can be made at 812 5249 or 0916-2653109.

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INQUIRER

# Don Exequiel proves worth

By Musong R. Castillo

ESGUERRA

CARMONA, CAVITE—SHOWING no rust from a long layoff, longshot Don Exequiel mounted a dizzying rally in the last bend for home yesterday to win the second leg of the Road to the Triple Crown series by five lengths over King's Dominion.

The handsome chestnut colt by Bench Mark out of Belle Epoque came up with a finishing kick no one could match and booked the third major win of his young career while serving notice of how ready he is for local racing's most prestigious series.

Ridden by Ronald Baldonido, Don Exequiel stayed in third place for most of the 1,600-meter race behind speedball Sutter's Royale before squeezing out the juice after the field passed the far turn.

Don Exequiel clocked an impressive 1 minute 41 seconds (24'-23'-25'-28') over the mile at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here and now looms as one of the favorites when the first leg of the Triple Crown series is flagged off May 14.

"That win was a tribute to what a great job my team, headed by trainer Jojo Panlilio, is doing," said sportsman Hermie Esguerra, who named his Triple Crown hope after his late father.

The winning time was just two seconds off the all-comers' mark of 1:39 owned by another Esguerra charger—2005 Triple Crown third leg winner Real Spicy.

"Considering that Don Exequiel came off a long layoff, it was a truly impressive way to win," Esguerra said.

Don Exequiel, sent off as the far seventh pick in the 10-horse field, won P600,000 out of the P1 million purse for Esguerra, who, as the breeder, added another P60,000 in winnings.

King's Dominion, under Jeff Zarate, settled for the runner-up purse worth P225,000 with top pick Special Edition, who was partnered by Dominador Borbe, checking in a badly beaten third for P125,000.

It was the third major stakes win for Don Exequiel, who also won the Don Juan Juvenile last year and the Philtobo Mitra Cup.

The Triple Crown has now become wide open with Juggernaut, the Juvenile champion last year, reportedly recovering from an operation that took out bone spurs in his front knees.

# Playboy backs jet ski star

PLAYBOY, ONE OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED fashion apparel lines, recently vowed support to the international campaign of World Jet Ski runner-up Paul del Rosario.

The agreement was forged recently by Del Rosario and Cinderella vice president Richie Coronel Santos, who is himself a Jet Ski Rider of the Year awardee and the first prominent Filipino to race in the World Jet Ski Finals in Arizona, USA.

Cinderella is the authorized distributor of the fashion apparel listed among the Top 50 brand names recognizable worldwide especially in the US, United Kingdom, Germany and Japan.

Del Rosario will be defending his national crown in the kick-off of the 2006 Petron National Jet Ski Series on April 22-23 at the Subic Bay Freeport and is preparing for the 2006 annual World Jet Ski Finals set on Oct. 1-8 in Lake Havasu, Arizona, USA. He's the lone Filipino competing in the ongoing Thailand National Tour.

As the Playboy endorser in the Philippines, Del Rosario joined elite A-list celebrity endorsers led by Paris Hilton, Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears, Nelly, Cristina Aguilera, Jay-Z, Carson Daly, Janet Jackson, Fat Boy Slim, Tara Reid, Method Man, Jennifer Lopez and Lenny Kravitz.

CINDERELLA vice president Richie Santos (right) shakes hand with Paul del Rosario who signed up as the first Filipino endorser of Playboy.

Del Rosario's other races are set on May 13-14 for the Petron Jet Ski Series Round 2, (May 27-28) Thailand National Tour Round 3, (June 3-4) Petron Jet Ski Round 3, (July 8-9) Thailand National Final Tour Round and (Dec. 9-10) World Jet Ski Cup in Pattaya, Thailand.

# Cojuangco, Lina should stop blaming each other

CLEAN LIVING

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

IT IS POINTLESS FOR PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Basketball Association of the Philippines head Joey Lina to waste much time blaming each other and digging the past if all they want is for the country to regain its membership in the international basketball federation (Fiba).

What is needed now is for the POC and the expelled BAP to immediately reach an agreement that will pave the way for Fiba's lifting of its nine-month-old suspension of the Philippines to enable Filipino players to compete in this year's Doha Asian Games and, possibly, the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I plan to get an appointment again with Mr. Cojuangco," said Lina, a former senator and cabinet member. "I hope that the POC will reconsider the expulsion and welcome back the BAP into its fold."

The BAP was expelled last June by 33 members of the POC general assembly. As a result of the expulsion, Fiba suspended the Philippines from all tournaments under its aegis.

Recently, a POC delegation led by Cojuangco, representatives of four major stakeholders who formed Pilipinas Basketball and some members of media went to Seoul, South Korea, to meet Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann and plead for the lifting of the ban on the Philippines and seek recognition of Pilipinas Basketball as the country's new cage body.

However, Baumann rejected the appeal, saying the Fiba cannot accept Pilipinas Basketball as the replacement of BAP because Pilipinas Basketball did not have the approval of Lina, the fifth stakeholder. "A majority decision is not what the Fiba is asking, but a consensus of all," the BAP stressed.

On this latest development, former POC president and Olympic purist retired Col. Julian Malonso had this to say. In a letter furnished the INQUIRER, he said, "Following the spirit of the Olympics, the recognized body for basketball by the Fiba is the BAP. When the BAP was expelled by the POC, there was grave abuse of discretion and a serious irregularity was committed when a meeting was held at the residence of POC president Cojuangco. The meeting should have been held in a neutral place." Now pushing 83, Malonso added, "Humility aside, I am the oldest, living former president of the Philippine Olympic Committee who understands the spirit of the Olympic movement."

Malonso stressed the POC should lift the expulsion of the BAP, as Baumann suggested. However, he pointed out that Baumann does not understand the word "stakeholders." He stressed that the national sports associations are composed of the regional sports associations, not by the so-called "stakeholders" that do not exist in the sports vocabulary.

On our quest to regain international glory Malonso said, "We are fishing in the sky, dreaming for the championship which is not within our capacity. We don't face reality. Other countries have improved tremendously while the Philippines has remained stagnant, satisfied with breaking national records."

He also hit those sportswriters who do not write the truth because they are beholden to financially influential people. "I hope the public is informed correctly." Malonso then asked: "Who paid for the 'junket' of the sports officials to meet Baumann but failed to convince him to recognize the new basketball association called 'Pilipinas?'" Junkets are unnecessary expenses of the (POC) president and other POC officials.

***

**A POINT TO PONDER. I am printing again this piece which came out in the Reader's Digest some years back because it is relevant to the times. Said Gabe Pressman (of Newsday): 'Journalism, on the air and in print, feeds on stereotypes and quick-fix stories—the morbid, the sensational, sexually titillating. They are simple to cover and don't require the expenditure of much intellectual energy.**

**"It could be argued that our viewers and readers are eager for negative news, and we give them what they want. But I think that's a cop-out.**

**We overdose people with the grim, horrible and pessimistic because we seem to know nothing else—we are so firmly embedded in this habit we have forgotten that the criteria for news are wide.**

**"People who are helping and saving others are even more newsworthy than the legions of killers, rapists and child abusers who march across the news columns and fill the tube. What we need is nothing less than a revolution in the way we define journalism."**


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# SPORTS

LIZARDO: Bangkok-bound

## National taekwondo jins joining Asian meet

THE PETRON NATIONAL TAEKWONDO team launches its international campaign by participating in the 17th Asian Taekwondo Championships set in Bangkok, Thailand, on April 19-24.

The Filipinos, who emerged taekwondo overall champion in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in Manila last year, are among the favorites in the tourney.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado said that 35 countries, including Korea, Chinese Taipei, China, Japan and Iran, will vie for honors.

"It's going to be a tough outing for our team, but I'm confident that our well-trained jins will be able to do well," said Aventajado.

Twelve athletes, led by 23rd SEAG gold winners John Paul Lizardo, Tshomlee Go, Mary Antoinette Rivero and Kathleen Eunice Alora, make up the Petron national squad.

The other members are Manuel Rivero Jr., Alexander Briones, Juan Ricardo Miguel Bernardino, Dax Alberto Morfe, Loraine Catalan, Kirstie Elaine Alora, Gerrielyn Aranzanso and Ma. Criselda Roxas.

The officials are Stephen Fernandez, head coach; Jesus Morales III, men's coach; and Roberto Cruz and Raul Samson, women's coaches. The delegation also includes international referees Mario Frigillana and Angelito Ong.

According to PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong, the team's participation serves as tuneup for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 11-24.

"The tourney will definitely be a big boost to tour athletes' training," said Hong.

The Filipinos' trip is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Petron

# La Salle spikers eye 3rd straight V-League crown

**DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY WILL again be the top favorite when the second conference Shakey's V-League begins on April 22 at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights.**

The Lady Archers, champions in the last two conferences, shoot for another one as they parade a powerhouse lineup.

Maureen Penetrante, who graduated last year, will not be around this time for La Salle but the Taft-based spikers remain the team to beat in the tournament that has lured three new schools from the UAAP and NCAA.

"We lost one important player but the core of the team is still there. So I think we still have a strong chance of winning another championship," said La Salle assistant coach Oliver Almadro, speaking in behalf of head coach Ramil de Jesus.

Almadro said they hope to tap Michelle Carolino again as one of the two guest players allowed in this event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

"We hope to get her again as one of our guest players, because she really fits the team well," said Almadro of the high-leaping, power-spiking looker from Agoncillo, Batangas.

**GAMES APRIL 22 (Blue Eagle gym)**
2 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
3 p.m.—Adamson vs PCU
4:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE

Out to foil La Salle's bid are Ateneo, San Sebastian College, Far Eastern U, Lyceum and newcomers Adamson, University of the East and Philippine Christian U.

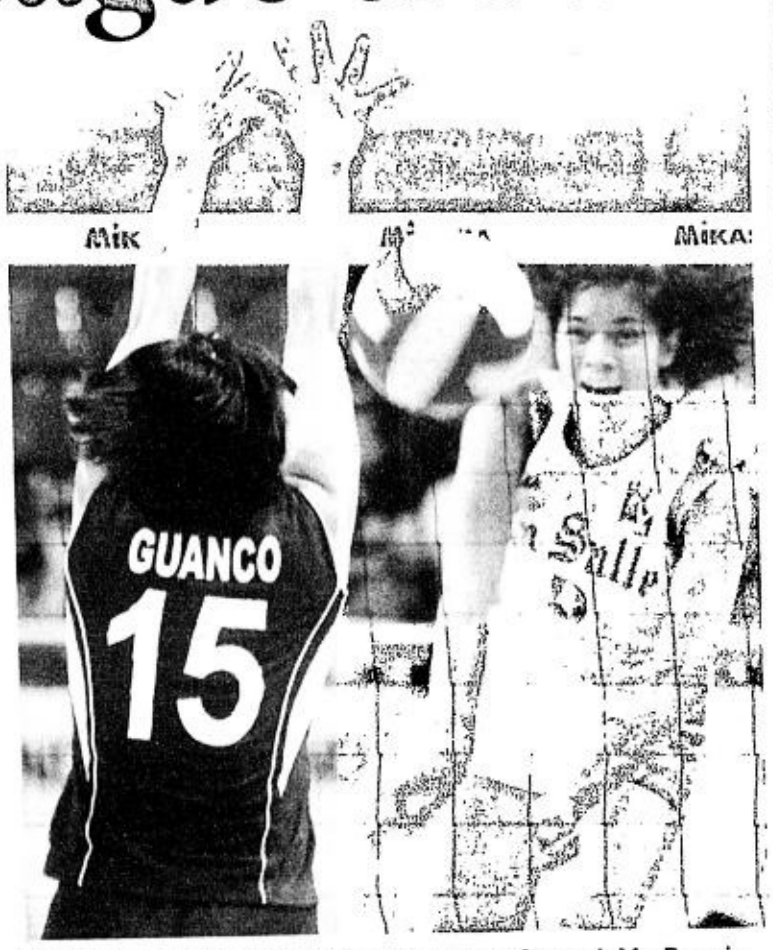
Veterans Desiree Hernandez, Chie Saet, Manilla Santos and Shermaine Penano will spearhead La Salle's title campaign with Hernandez expected to carry much of the load.

Hernandez powered La Salle to a UAAP three-peat by trouncing Adamson in the finals last season. She was named the MVP in the process.

Saet, who was named the best setter in the league's first three conferences, and Santos are expected to back Hernandez.

Penano is eyeing a fourth straight best libero award.

The other La Salle spikers are Carla Llaguno, Jacqueline Alarac and the returning Michelle Datuin.




MICHELLE Carolino of De la Salle spikes over Ateneo's Ma. Rosario Soriano in last year's semifinals. RYAN LIM

## SPORTSWATCH

### V-League, ABC 5 honchos PSA guests

THE MEN AND WOMEN BEHIND THE SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE ALONG WITH its new TV coverer ABC-5 are the PSA Forum guests for tomorrow when it resumes its weekly session at the main function room of the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. The organizing Sports Vision Management will be represented by chair Moying Martelino, president Jun Bernardino, director and finance officer Ricky Palou director Rhea Navarro and commissioner Tony Boy Liao in the public sports program sponsored by Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Representing Shakey's are general manager Vic Greogorio and marketing director Meggie Jose while production director Sienna Olaso and sports programming manager Winston Garcia speak in behalf of ABC-5 which is now in charge of the TV coverage of the volley meet whose second season unwraps on April 22.

### PBA shoot-out up at SM-Batangas

A DAY FULL OF FUN, GAMES AND SURPRISES IS IN STORE FOR PBA fans beginning tomorrow when the first Burlington-PBA summer shootout at SM malls kicks off its seven-week tour at SM Batangas. On tap are the shooting challenge, basketball obstacle relay, dribbling and passing skills and beat the buzzer shooting challenge. Cage clinics for the kids will be held starting at 2 p.m. Organized by the PBA Properties and sponsored by Burlington, SM Supermalls, Bio-Fresh, Sunbolt, Toby's Sports, Accel, Sonia Trading and Ohm, the clinics is open to boys and girls aged 9-12. Contact 809-0244 or fax 772-4284, Mona Salem at 0915-5561337.

### Makati Coliseum derby today

COCKERS FROM PASAY, LAS PIÑAS PARAÑAQUE, MAKATI, PASIG AND Mandaluyong clash in a 3-cock derby today at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum. B-Meg Derby Ace is the sponsor. The hosts, Susan and Wang Group, will be supported by promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P150,000 for an entry fee of P5,500. Up on Wednesday, April 19, is another 3-cocker with WTJ House Kristos as hosts. On Saturday, April 22, Jun Zuniga will host a 5-cock event. The Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby sizzles on April 24. For inquiries, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

### San Juan Coliseum 4-cocker sizzles

COCKFIGHTING ACTION RESUMES AT THE AIR-CONDITIONED SAN JUAN Coliseum today via the Sabungero Magasin 4-cock derby. Featuring cockers and breeders from Central Luzon and Metro Manila, the derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. A guaranteed prize of P400,000 awaits the winners. To be hosted by Neil Tuazon, this event which is also dubbed as Battle of Champions will start at 5 p.m. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 0917-8064758 (Neil ). Up next at SJC is the sixth leg of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby on Wednesday, April 19. Submit entries tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Tukaan draws more entries

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S TUKAAN 5-COCK DERBY, WITH P2 MILLION at stake and slated on April 29, May 2, 4 and 6, has attracted more than 150 entries as of yesterday. Host Rolly Ligon said the fastest win champion will drive home a brand-new Toyota Innova as bonus. Entry fee is P8,800. Meanwhile, members of the National Cockers Association (NCA) are reminded to submit today straight five cocks for tomorrow's NCA 5-cock derby. Aficionados are assured of at least 60 top quality fights. Derby hosts are NCA members Rudy Albano and Pico Berin.

## SM Storyland Junior Badminton Camp set

A TEAM COMPETITION FEATURING THE top graduates of weekend clinics will highlight the SM Storyland Junior Badminton Camp unfurling next weekend April 22-23 at SM Southmall.

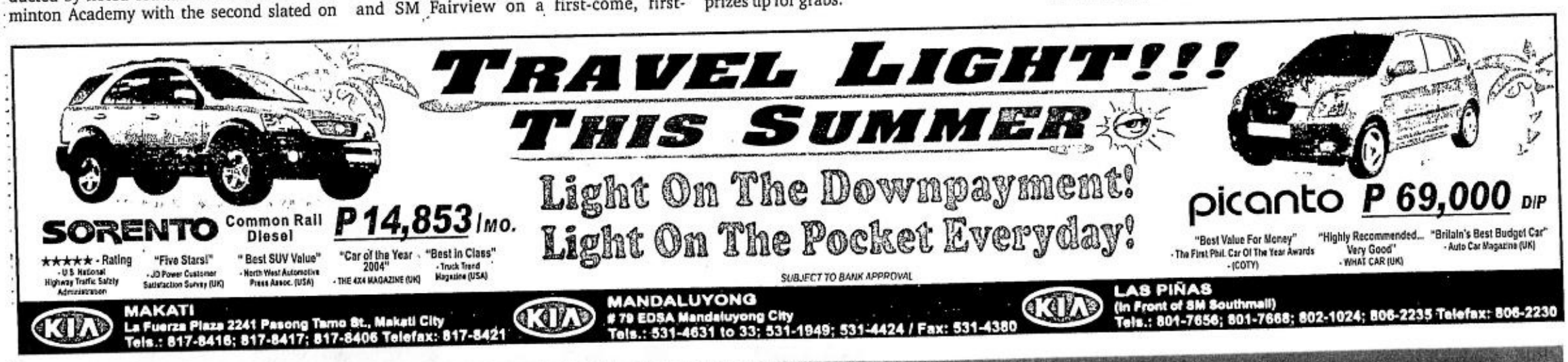
This coming weekend's clinic at the SM Southmall will be the first of two to be conducted by noted coaches of the Kimoni Badminton Academy with the second slated on April 29-30 at SM Fairview.

The camp is a project of SM Storyland in partnership with INQUIRER Badminton, Kimoni Philippines and Gerflor Taraflex. It is open only to members of SM Storyland Clubbies from ages 5 years old to 12.

Registration is still going on at the SM Storyland Club offices at SM Southmall and SM Fairview on a first-come, first-served basis.

The coaches will choose from among the clinic participants those who can represent their team in the tournament proper on May 6-7 at SM Southmall and at SM Fairview on May 13-14.

They will compete for the title in four different age-groups with trophies and exciting prizes up for grabs.



E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

**CHEER FACTOR**

**Hey, Winnie!**

SQUEALING fans lined up 10 deep on Hollywood's Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, a few hurling themselves through a phalanx of minders to get close to Winnie the Pooh, who was unveiling his Hollywood Walk of Fame star. *Reuters*

SHARMAINE Buencamino and Mads Nicolas in "Sandalang Bahay"

## Is the P.7-M grant from Cinema One too small?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ON ITS SECOND YEAR, CINEMA ONE ORIGInals, a festival of digital films, has increased its "production grant" from P600,000 to P700,000. On top of this, a "competition" program is also in the works.

These developments were relayed to INQUIRER Entertainment by Ronald M. Arguelles, director of programming of Creative Programs, Inc., which operates and distributes Cinema One, ABS-CBN's Filipino movie cable channel.

Arguelles defended the cable channel's project against criticism that the grant is insufficient: "I don't think it's too small. It really depends on the movie's ambition. The concept itself will dictate the production cost. I think it's a realistic budget."

In any case, he said, Cinema One would not hesitate to help filmmakers look for other subsidy or fund sources should they require more than the grant, like what happened last year.

"Some filmmakers needed an extra P100,000," he recalled. "So we came up with product placement deals for them. It helped a lot."

He named the two films that needed additional help: Liza Cornejo's "Sitak" and Topel Lee's "Dilim."

"Cinema One will take care of the promotions and marketing," he pointed out. "We can tap ABS-CBN's extensive network in terms of print, radio, free TV (ABS-CBN 2 and Studio 23) and cable TV advertising."

This year, Cinema One is also mounting an awards show to cap the screening festival which will be held in SM Megamall in October.

"That's another lesson from last year," he acknowledged. "To make it more exciting, we will hand out awards for Best Performers, as well as two Best Pictures, to be chosen by the audience and a board of jurors."

This year's festival follows the theme: "*Paglalarawan ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino sa Makabagong Sine at Panahon*."

Arguelles enumerated this year's seven finalists: Sherad Anthony Sanchez's "Huling Balyan ng Buhi," on a tribal sub-culture in Mindanao; Jim Flores and Lawrence Fajardo's "Raket ni Nanay," about the "sacrifices and obsessions of a mom-session model-painter"; director Connie Macatuno and writer Chris Violago's "Rome and Juliet," a love story between a young bride and a female wedding planner; Paolo Herras' "Rekados," four stories ("Pansit," "Dinuguan," "Lugaw" and "Kare-Kare") set in a small *carinderia*; Cris Pablo's "Metlogs (Metrosexual Jologs)," featuring three *probinsiyano* in Manila; Ruelo Lozendo's "Pandango," a trilogy tackling family issues; and Ed Lejano's "Seroks" (with Iye Candelaria), a psychological thriller centering on a femme fatale.

Arguelles said Cinema One received 170 concept papers, which were then short-listed to 32 entries.

"In their proposals, the applicants elaborated on the films' summaries, plus their timetables and budgets," he said. "The filmmakers are aware of the P.7-million production grant from the start. I don't want to focus on the intrigues anymore. What is more important is to

IS/ A2-3

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## Mac Alejandre: Magical different from enchanting

TAKE FIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz

ALEJANDRE: "It's important for the audience to believe what they see."

"MAJIKA" DIRECTOR Mac Alejandre agreed to direct GMA 7's newest *tele-fantasya* for three reasons.

"First, the material is very impressive," said Alejandre, who also directs the afternoon drama anthology "Now and Forever." "The vision of the directors is inspired by what they read. If the material is well-written, *maganda rin ang direksyon*."

RJ Nuevas ("Sugo") heads "Majika's" pool of writers. Don Michael Perez ("Mulawin") is creative consultant.

"Second, it's very exiting to work with Eric [Quizon, co-director]. His skills as an actor and director are unquestionable. I've worked with him in the past. *Napakahusay niya*. You have to remember how well he did in 'Darna.' It was phenomenal."

Quizon co-directed the TV version of Mars Ravelo's "Darna" with Dominic Zapata. The series still holds the record for highest rating in local television history (52.1 percent for its fourth episode).

"How could one say no to such a stellar cast?" Alejandre said.

"Majika" features the love team of Angel Locsin and Dennis Trillo, supported by award-winning actors such as Gina Alajar, Eddie Garcia, Jaime Fabregas and Jean Garcia.

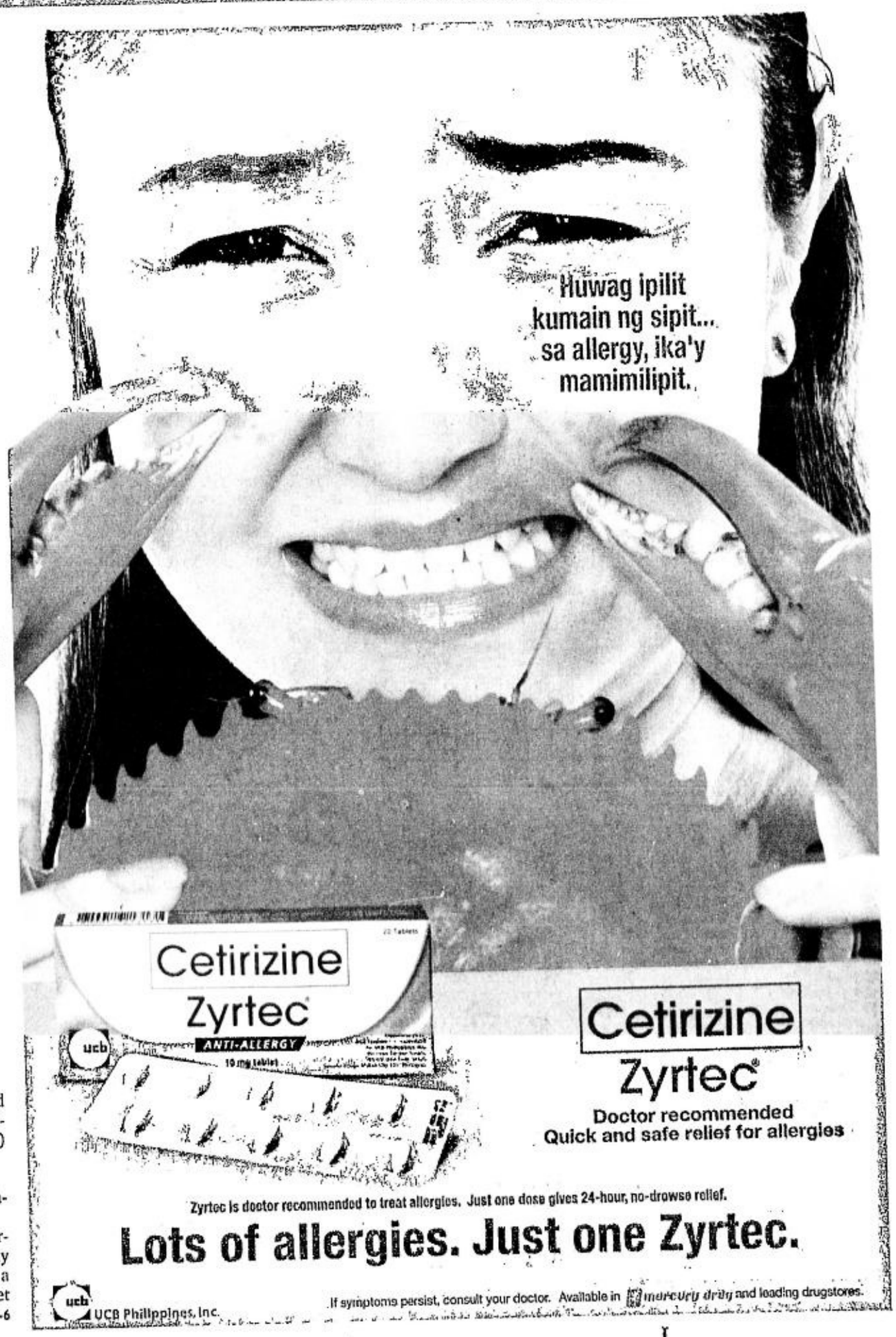
**How do you and Eric divide the work?**

Eric is the main director; I am the second unit director of the show. The executive producers (Angie Catrence and Edlyn Tallada) decide how the work is divided.

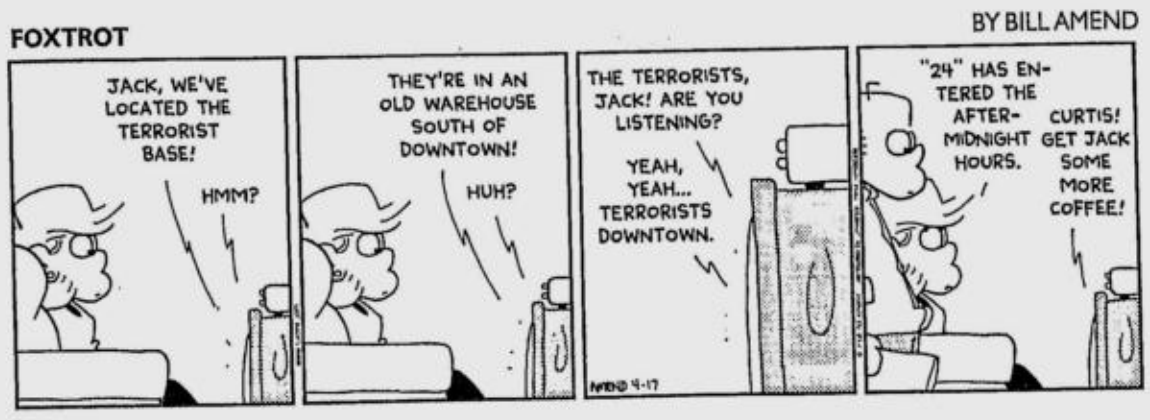
**You're a director of television shows, commercials and movies. How do you cope?**

Through the years, I've learned that in order to be efficient, I have to manage my schedule well. I tape three to four times a week for "Now and Forever." I work on the set

MAC/ A2-6



**FOXTROT** BY BILL AMEND



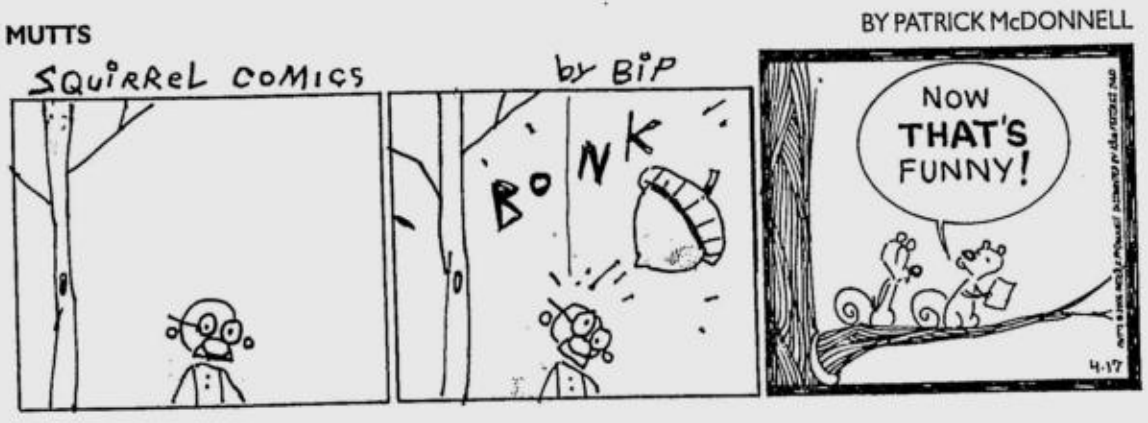

**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA

**MARVIN** BY TOM ARMSTRONG

**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR

**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT

**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL

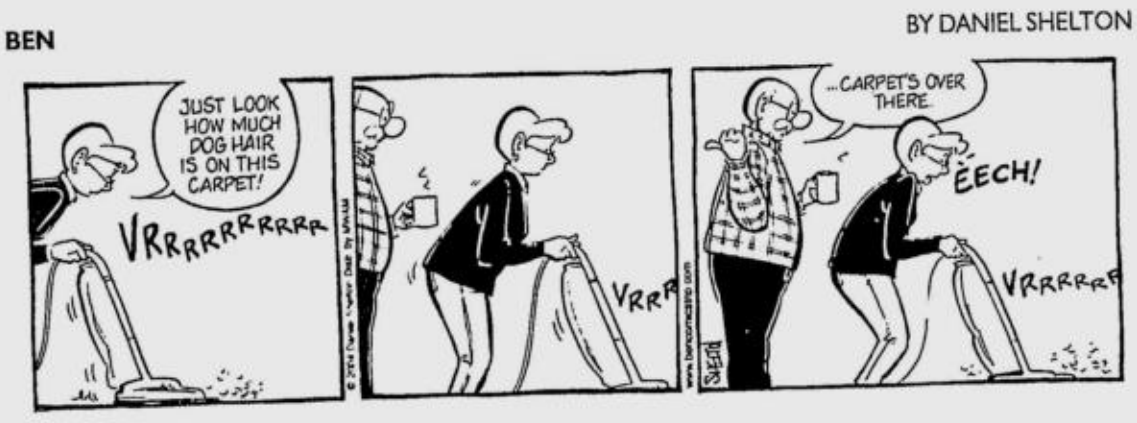



**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO

**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS

**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON




**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO




**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You know who you are; you have a strong sense of your personal power. This makes others respect you. In turn, you respond by being conscientious, responsible and reliable. You try to use your talents to benefit others as well as yourself. You're very serious about your work. In the year ahead, your focus is on your partnerships and relationships.

**Birthdate of:** Jennifer Garner, actress; Harry Reasoner, TV journalist; William Holden, actor/activist.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** A private but very sweet insight could occur to you today. Basically, you realize that you approve of you! You accept yourself with your faults and your wonderful traits.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** A friend might be quite generous to you today. You will enjoy being in the company of others, that's for sure. Be friendly to everyone.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** This is the perfect day to waltz up to your boss and ask for a raise or a promotion. It's a great day to ask for any kind of favor. Your luck is strong! (You might not get it, but now is the time to ask.)

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Offers to travel somewhere, or for favors connected with publishing, the media and education are likely. Your window of opportunity is brief. Accept quickly!

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Wow! This is a day when goodies, gifts and favors can definitely come your way. At the least, you will benefit from your partner's increased good fortune.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Conversations with partners and friends are delightful today! People surprise you with gracious comments and compliments. (We like.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Work is a source of wonderful feedback from others today. Coworkers are sweet. In fact, someone might give you a gift. At the least, you'll have the gift of good company.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Love, romance and wonderful social invitations can come your way today. This is also a lovely day to enjoy playful activities with children. Just have fun!

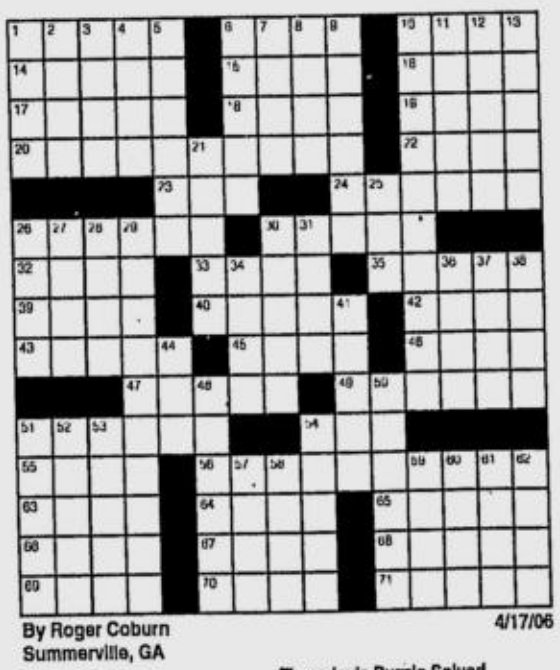
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** You might spontaneously entertain people at home today or tonight. These are often the best times. Real estate deals can benefit you now. Enjoy unusual art in your home.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** You feel warm and loving toward everyone today. In large measure, this could be prompted by the fact that someone expresses genuine affection for you. What goes around comes around!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** You might find some money today, or you might find a wonderful bargain. Somehow a financial opportunity comes to you. Bonus! Don't question this. Just be grateful.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** This is a lucky day for you. Unexpected goodies and favors will come to you. Don't look for attached strings; just say "thank you."

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

4/17/06

**ACROSS**
1 Blokes
6 Bit of physics
10 Wuss
14 R.U.R. role
15 Goddess of victory
16 Gobi's location
17 White poplar
18 Laura of "Jurassic Park"
19 Sailor's tale
20 Hip approval
22 Actress Blanchett
23 __ Cruces, NM
24 Lengthy periods
26 Stock of wines
30 Blockbuster offering
32 Jai __
33 Alum
35 Kilt pattern
39 Hog-wild
40 Edmonton player
42 Mickey and Minnie
43 Snooped
45 Seethe with anger
46 Yemen metropolis
47 Strong suit
49 "Gunsmoke" star
51 BLT word
54 Ike's arena
55 Beyond
56 Hip approval
63 "Fiesque" composer
64 Former sovereign of Iran
65 Skin cream
66 Rebuke to Brutus
67 Brass band member
68 Habituate
69 Trial
70 Eschew
71 Adjust the alarm

**DOWN**
1 Auto finish?
2 Tramp
3 Assist
4 Negri of old films
5 Stanley Kowalski's cry
6 Williams and Warhol
7 Stadium level
8 Southern veggie
9 Repaired
10 Hip approval
11 Asimov or Newton
12 Gaiety
13 Window elements
21 Florida key
25 Get-up-and-go
26 James of "Elf"
27 "Tickle Me" Muppet
28 Cambodia's neighbor
29 Hip approval
30 Worth
31 Footnote word
34 Breach
36 Assistant
37 Chills
38 Cozy retreats
41 Spanish lariat
44 Period
48 Perches
50 Team makeup
51 Rental sign
52 Egglike
53 Thaws
54 Coen brother
57 Casual negative
58 Forbidden: var.
59 Actress Skye
60 Large antelopes
61 Present!
62 Transport-loss allowance

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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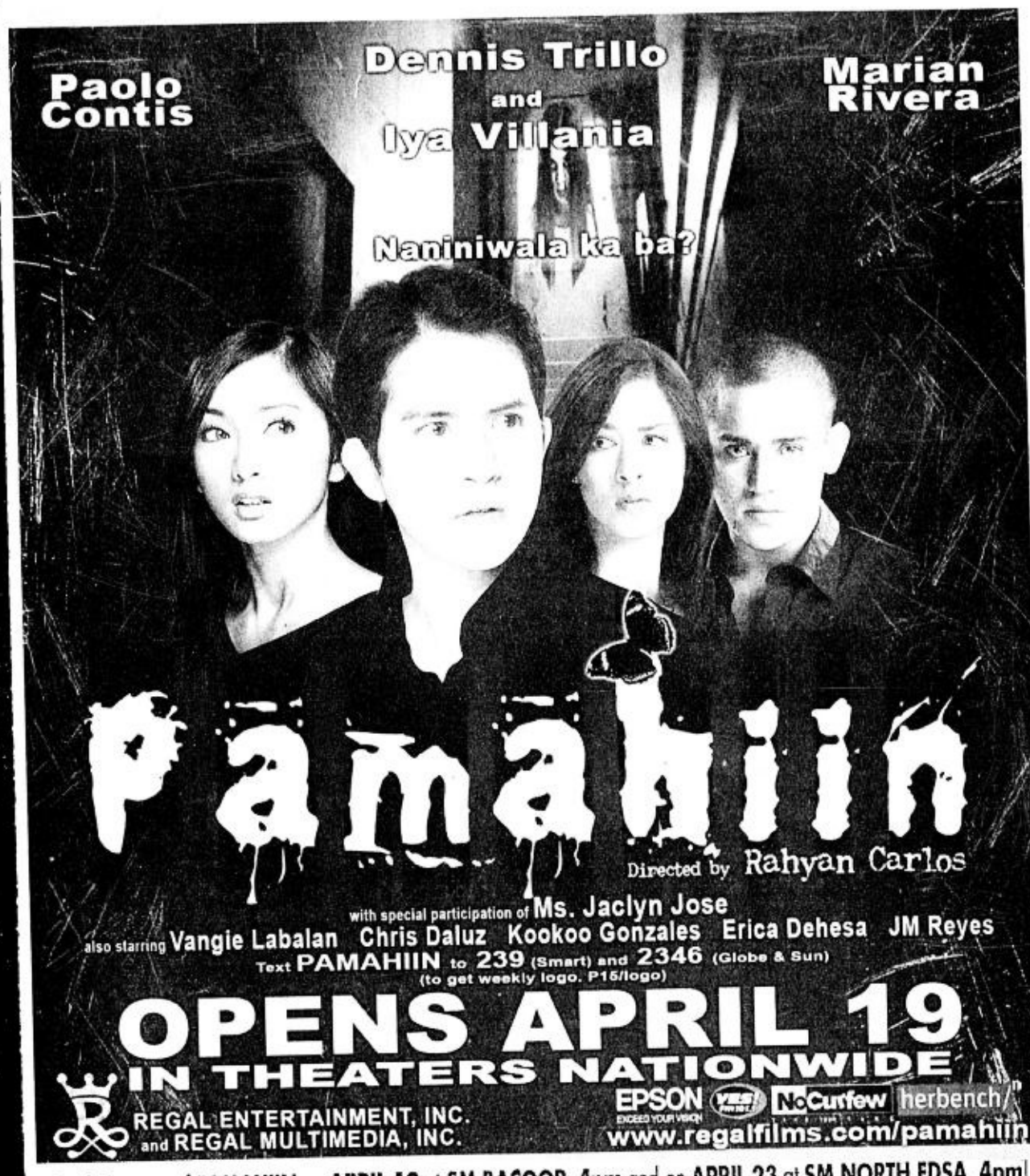
4/14/06

# Is the P.7-M grant . . .

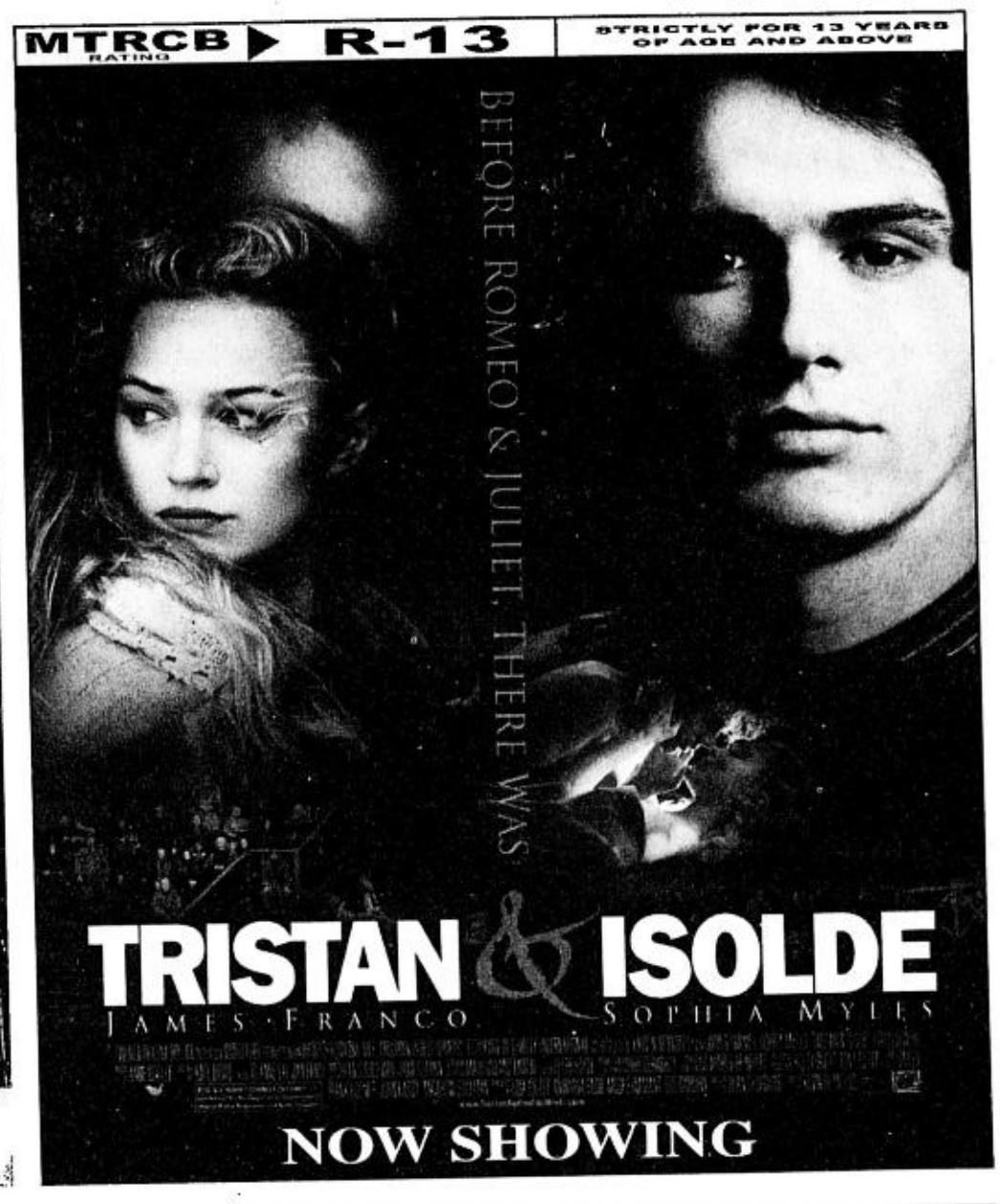
From page A2-1

produce seven good films from new feature-film directors."

He reiterated that at least three entries from last year's Cinema One had been accepted to different film festivals abroad: Mark Gary's "Sandalang Bahay" and Cornejo's "Sitak" were shown in Fribourg last month; Dennis Marasigan's "Sa North Diversion Road" was invited to the Singapore International Film Festival (ongoing until April 29); and "Sandalang" was also accepted to the official selection section of the Newport Beach Film Festival (April 20 to 30).


Catch the stars of **PAMAHIIN** on **APRIL 19** at **SM BACOOR**, 4pm and on **APRIL 23** at **SM NORTH EDSA**, 4pm!
Premiere Night: **April 17 Cinema 1 SM Megamall 7pm**




glorietta | GREENBELT | ALABANG TOWN | AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! | Ayala Malls

## AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 D' LUCKY ONES | 2 EIGHT BELOW | 3 SUBMERGED | 4 MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 D' LUCKY ONES | 2 AMERICAN SOLDIERS | 3 THX TRISTAN & ISOLDE 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 JUST FRIENDS | 5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | 6 EIGHT BELOW | 7 SUBMERGED |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 EIGHT BELOW | | 2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX RENT 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS | | 2 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 EIGHT BELOW 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 TRISTAN & ISOLDE 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER 7 | 1 THX EIGHT BELOW | | 2 AMERICAN SOLDIERS | |
| | 3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE | 4 D' LUCKY ONES | 5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 EIGHT BELOW | 2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE | 3 SHE'S THE MAN | 4 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN |
| M2 MARKET! MARKET! | 1 D' LUCKY ONES | | 2 SUBMERGED | |
| | 3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE | 4 EIGHT BELOW | 5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | |

## At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|
| Easter Bunny Special by Repertory Philippines April 16, 2006 | Easter Fun at Town April 16, 2006 |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! |
| Ayala Center Cebu's Easter Event & Kiddo's 1st Year Anniversary April 16, 2006 | Cartoon Network Summer Camp April 22, 2006 |

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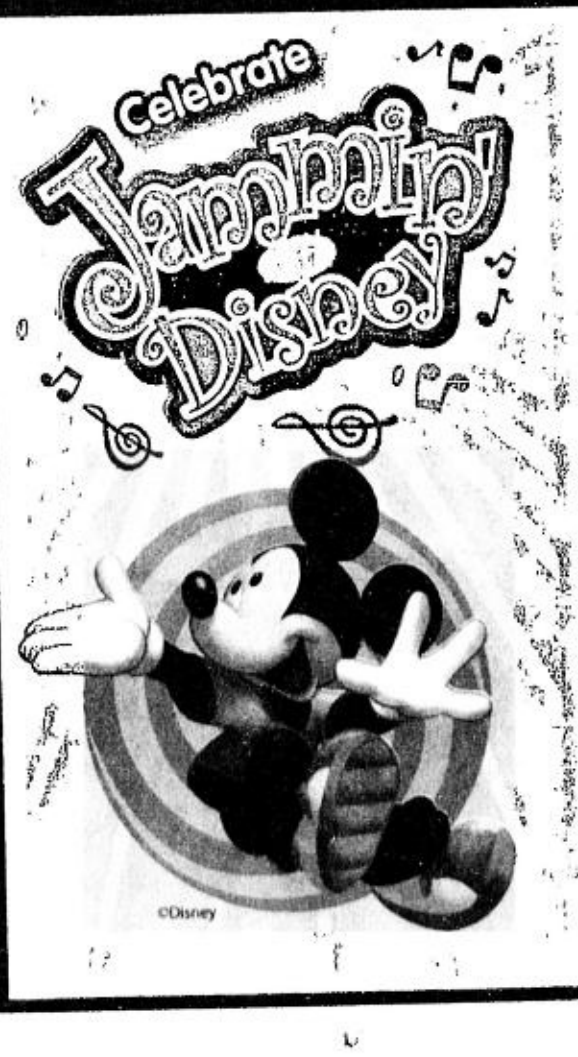
--- Ebert & Roeper

"MUST SEE FILM OF THE YEAR!"
--- Paul Clinton, CNN

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Ayala Malls

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glorietta
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May 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2006
May 4 & 5:
12 pm, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 6 pm
May 6 & 7:
12 pm, 1:30pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm, 6:30 pm
Activity Center
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Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7519

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Where Cebu's heart beats
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Activity Center
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Explore the world of your favorite Disney Characters, Princess Castle, Playhouse Disney, Disney/Pixar's CARS Racetrack, Fairies Enchanted Forest, W.I.T.C.H. The Krandakar Maze from April 27 to May 31!

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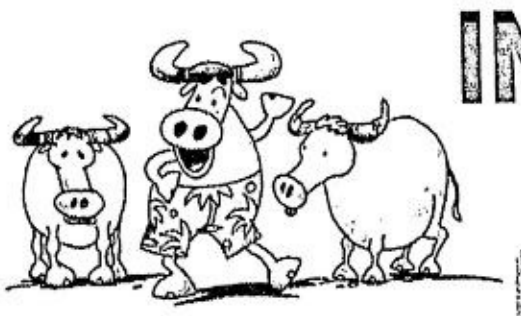

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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| MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50 | ICE AGE 2 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 | BANDIDAS 12:20 / 2:30 BASIC INSTINCT 2 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50 | EIGHT BELOW 1:20 / 3:50 / 6:20 / 8:50 |
| AMERICAN SOLDIERS 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30 | NANNY McPHEE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 7:20 / 9:40 | EIGHT BELOW 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30 | ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299 |

SM MALL CINEMAS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| D' LUCKY ONES 12:10 R3 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30 | SUBMERGED 12:15 R4 / 1:40 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 8:55 | ICE AGE 2 12:15 R3 / 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15 |
| MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40 | EIGHT BELOW 12:25 / 2:55 / 5:25 / 7:55 | DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS |

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Apr 19, 4:40 AIR 21 vs SAN MIGUEL
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HERE COMES THE NEW HEROES OF THE POOR AND OPPRESSED

SALMA HAYEK
PENÉLOPE CRUZ
FEAR NO MAN
BANDIDAS


# Dance Up a Summer Storm

What happens when the country's most beloved theme park gets into the summer groove? You get this season's hottest celebration: Enchanted Kingdom's Festivale Danze!

Festivale Danze is a musical parade that brings together a colorful mix of dances from all over the world, and now spreads them all across the expansive grounds of Enchanted Kingdom. Full of the spirit and exuberance of the youth, it is a tribute to the radiant magic of summer.

Never before will the streets of Enchanted Kingdom overflow with so much life. Artistic director Freddie Santos, the appointed visionary behind this spectacle, made sure of that. He took inspiration from the Park's various rides and themes to come up with a diverse program of stunning moves and grooves. Among them are:

- Bailamos, a super-charged Latin and hip-hop number
- The Victorian Court, a combination of classic minuet formations and breakaway dance grooves
- The Brooklyn Swingers, a full swinging, boogie-overflowing suite
- Jungle Natives, a rhythmic assault of the senses, with fire-eaters heating up the act
- Boulderville Cartoonix, top re-arranger Spike Jones creates a musical mayhem, where comedy and movement prove they're a good match
- Street Life, a rousing number by the Drums and Lyre Marching Band, one of the country's youngest and most outstanding bands, and Laguna's pride and joy
- Exodus Reborn, a beautifully choreographed performance that brings the award-winning movie to life
- Ati-Atihan Rhythms, the percussion group keeps the wild beat going all throughout the parade
- Eldar's Spell, Enchanted Kingdom's beloved ruler Eldar and characters from the much loved comic book Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom lead audiences into one dance after another with just a magical wave of the Wizard's wand

And we haven't even mentioned the dazzling fireworks yet! Just another small addition to Enchanted Kingdom's newest and biggest attraction this summer. Kicking off at 5pm every Saturday and Sunday starting April 22, while the park itself is open everyday 'til June 4, from 4pm to 12mn on weekdays, and 10am to 12mn on weekends and holidays.

You'll have plenty of time to make the most out of summer. So long as you make your way to Enchanted Kingdom - for the magical beats and rhythms of Festivale Danze!

A2-4 ENT

# LT hopes to bring from the hospit

RUSHES

AMID ALARMING REPORTS ON THE HEALTH of action star Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez, wife Lorna Tolentino assured the public via SMS sent to INQUIRER Entertainment: "We are still [in] the hospital, but we hope to go home... early this week. Thank you for all the prayers!"

### Joey, Alicia split up

So it's Splitsville for Joey Marquez and Alicia Meyer. Less than a month ago, a sizzling footage of their latest beach break was aired on nationwide television. How soon the flame of love can die! How soon goodnight becomes goodbye!

### R-18 for 'Da Vinci'?

How many Filipinos will see the movie version of "The Da Vinci Code" uncut and unsanitized?

It's up to the Move and Television Review and Classification Board, which has been receiving a lot of complaints from concerned civic and religious groups.

This much is certain: If the film gets an R-18, it won't be shown in SM Cinemas—and that's a sizable portion of the market.

### Auditions for... judges

Even judges and hosts will have to go through the wringer like the "Philippine Idol" contestants.

With the exception of the slot for composer Ryan Cayabyab, auditions for the two other judges, plus two hosts, of the local "Idol" are ongoing.

According to Perci Intalan, ABC 5 vice president for Production and Creative: "It's not common practice, but it just goes to show how thorough ABC and FreemanteMedia ("Idol" producer worldwide) are. The great thing is, local celebrities are happy to go through the screen-

LORNA Tolentino

# ERTAINMENT

## home Daboy
## al this week

### FEEDBACK

**The best job, indeed!**

From Riza Clarke (rizaclarke@yahoo.com), Denver Colorado:

Hi Ruben! You really have the best job in the world! Congrats as you celebrate your column's first anniversary with the INQUIRER.

I am a Filipino residing in Denver, Colorado and I read your column and Dollywood online.

I have always been a show biz junkie—from way back in the Philippines. Here, I subscribe to Hollywood gossip publications.

We don't get The Filipino Channel here, so my only indulgence in the Pinoy show biz viewing department is the Internet. Which is not a bad thing at all because I get to read you ahead of even folks back home!

I wish you and your column more success in the coming years.

SAM Concepcion

ings and are giving their all."

**Prediction for Sam**

"Little Big Star" winner Sam Concepcion has a fan in theater stalwart Audie Gemora, president of Stages (the boy's managers) who predicts a bright future: "He's only 9 and he can sing, dance, act and host. He will reach his peak at 17, by which time he will be a total performer."

**Outrageous sale**

In New York, the flamboyant frippery of veteran pop-rock singer and legendary over-dresser Elton John went on sale to help fund the fight against AIDS.

Ten thousand pieces of classic couture and outrageous outfits from John's eclectic fashion collection and that of his partner, David Furnish, were laid out for purchase at the new Elton's Closet shop in New York's Rockefeller Center.

With $15 T-shirts and a $5,000 cashmere coat were laid out high-brow tailored suits and pieces by top designer labels such as Versace, Louis Vuitton, Comme des Garcons and Gucci. *AFP*

**Weird, fantastic**

In London, Daniel "Harry Potter" Radcliffe became the youngest person other than members of the British royal family to have an individual picture at Britain National Portrait Gallery.

"It's very weird. It's fantastic. It's a very, very strange feeling," the young actor said of the portrait. *AFP*

MADONNA and Guy Ritchie AP

**Remember Molly?**

Molly Ringwald is coming back to TV for the first time in four years for a guest appearance on the supernatural drama, "The Medium," in an episode that airs May 1.

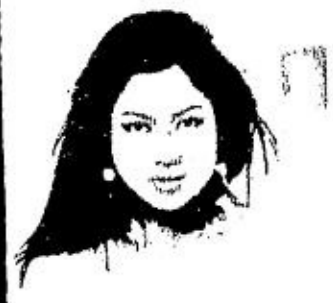
The former Brat-Packer and teen-film queen—"Pretty in Pink," "The Breakfast Club," "Sixteen Candles"—hasn't been on the small screen since starring in the TNT movie "The Big Time" in 2002. *AP*

KYLIE Minogue AP

**Trouble at the castle**

Madonna and Guy Ritchie have retreated to Los Angeles where they are patching things up after a bumpy period in their marriage, her father-in-law says in a magazine interview.

"LA seems to have helped them. It's easier out there because there is less pressure. They seem to have left the bumps they were having over here behind them," John Ritchie was quoted as saying in an interview with Closer magazine. *AP*

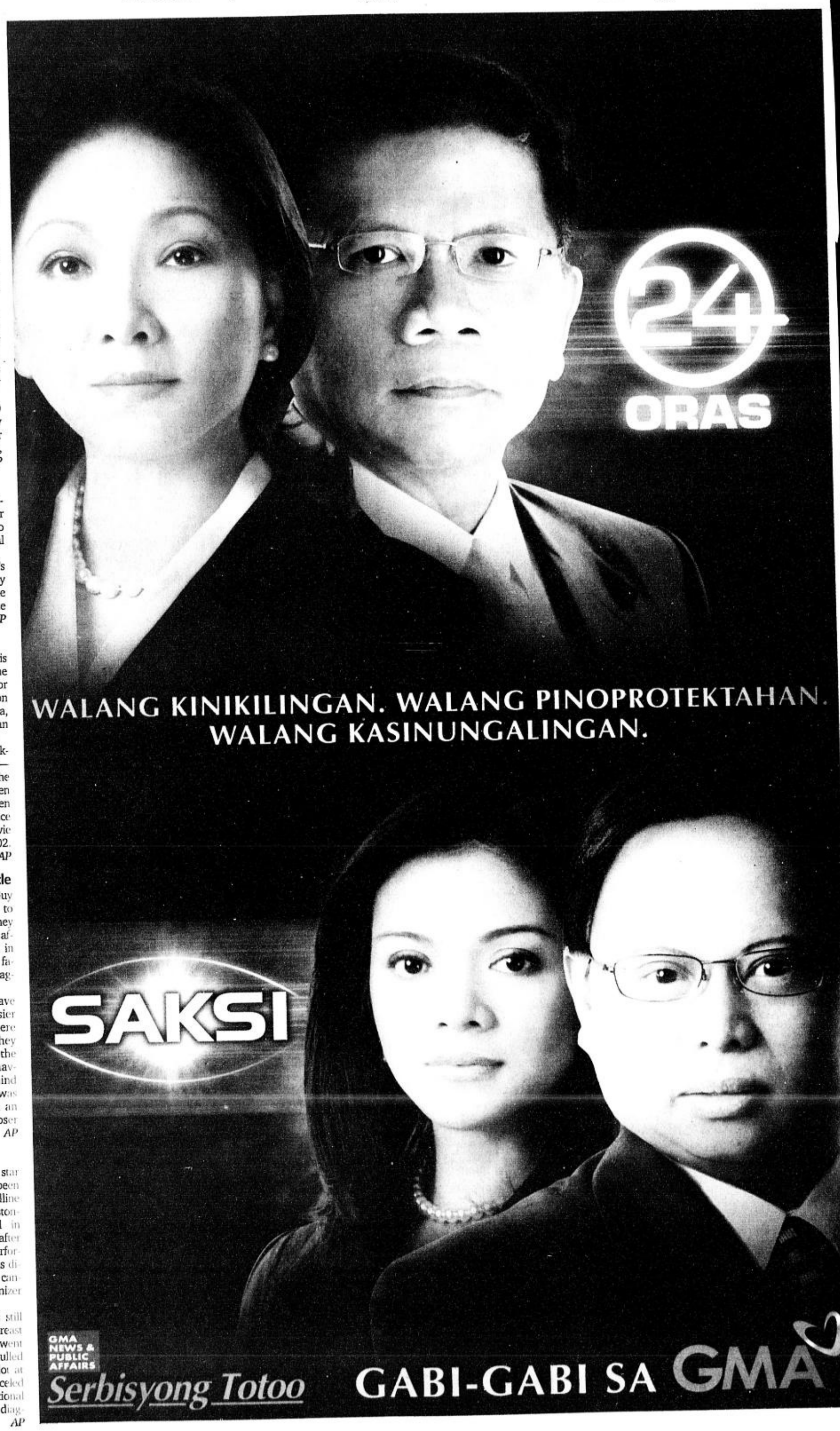


ALICIA Meyer

**Back on track**

Australian pop star Kylie Minogue has been asked to headline Britain's famed Glastonbury music festival in 2007—two years after she canceled her performance when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, the event's organizer said.

Minogue, who is still being treated for breast cancer and underwent surgery last year, pulled out of a headline slot at the festival and canceled parts of an international tour following her diagnosis. *AP*



There's a new attraction at Enchanted Kingdom.

This summer, get ready for Festivale Danze! A stunning parade loaded with dance moves, musical grooves and breathtaking fireworks that will surely make your summer days sizzle! Debuting on April 22, 5pm.

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CINEMA 1
ICE AGE 2
CINEMA 2
EIGHT BELOW

SM MEGACINEMA
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 SUBMERGED
3 ICE AGE 2
4 RESERVED
5 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
6 BANDIDAS
7 JUST FRIENDS
8 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 D LUCKY ONES
11 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12 SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2
5 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
6 BANDIDAS
7 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
8 SUBMERGED

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE LUCKY ONES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 TRISTAN & ISOLDE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 BANDIDAS
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 EIGHT BELOW
7 SUBMERGED
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 ICE AGE 2
10 VENOM
11 CHINESE TALL STORY
12 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 ICE AGE 2
2 SUBMERGED
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 BANDIDAS
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 VENOM
7 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
8 JUST FRIENDS
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONESE
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 ICE AGE 2
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY MANILA
1 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
2 SUBMERGED
3 BANDIDAS
4 ICE AGE 2
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 EIGHT BELOW
7 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 VENOM
11 JUST FRIENDS
12 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 ICE AGE 2
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 SUBMERGED
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 D LUCKY ONES
7 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
8 VENOM
9 BANDIDAS

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 D LUCKY ONES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY SUCAT
1 ICE AGE 2
2 EIGHT BELOW
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

TRISTAN & ISOLDE
Watch James Franco and Sophia Myles in an enchanting love story between two people of worlds apart and on how they kept their promise to be with each other forever.
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SM CITY BAGUIO
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 ICE AGE 2
4 EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY MARILAO
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 ICE AGE 2
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 ICE AGE 2
4 BANDIDAS

SM CITY LEGAZPI
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 EIGHT BELOW
6 D LUCKY ONES
7 CHINESE TALL STORY
8 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 ICE AGE 2
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 ICE AGE 2
3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
4 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY MOLINO
1 D LUCKY ONES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 EIGHT BELOW

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 EIGHT BELOW
5 ICE AGE 2
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 D LUCKY ONES
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SHE'S THE MAN
2 RESERVED
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 ICE AGE 2
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 NANNY McPHEE
7 RESERVED
8 EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY DAVAO
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 NORTH COUNTRY
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 ICE AGE 2
6 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 ICE AGE 2
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA



# Mac Alejandre: Magical different...

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MAC Alejandre

From page A2-1

of "Majika" twice or thrice a week. I allot two or three days for films. I do commercials in between.

**How would you defend "Majika" from critics who say it's no different from other GMA 7 *tele-fantasya* like "Encantadia" or "Etheria?"**

It's very simple. When we work on this one, we keep in mind that the operative word is "magical." It's important for the audience to believe what they see.

"Encantadia" isn't magical. It's enchanting. While some of the conflicts here may be serious, the overall mood and tone of "Majika" is magical. *Hindi mabigat*. For example, if you've seen the "Harry Potter" series, you will notice that the issues discussed are very serious but the director's treatment is light. That's the key. That's the major difference. Same applies with the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Always, there's purity of heart and spirit in the protagonists.

**Are you a meticulous director?**

I'm coming from two major special effects films—"Captain Barbell" and "Lastikman." I'm also from the advertising world, where people are very keen on details. I think the technical aspect is only one facet of directing, just one of the many devices that directors use in order to share their vision.

**Have you encountered any difficulties in this series so far?**

I think the only major difficulty is that the material is hard to execute. Yes, it's beautiful. But to come up with a product that's beautiful is always a challenge.

**Much work was done on the set of "Encantadia." How special is the set of "Majika?"**

I would like to think that we're not only bigger than "Encantadia," but also different. We want "Majika" to leave a mark in the minds of the viewers the same way that "Darna," "Encantadia" or Mulawin" left their own marks.

The magical world of Saladin is being shot in a tourist spot in Lemery, Batangas. It's been blocked off from tourist for four months. It has existing castles and bridges.

The mortal world is shot in places like Antipolo, Zambales and San Jose del Monte in Bulacan. The crater of Mt. Pinatubo in Pampanga is another very significant location.

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# Rehabilitation of Keanna and Mystica

WHEN SHOW BIZ TALK SHOWS WANT TO generate controversy, they usually invite the garrulous likes of **Keanna Reeves, Mystica, Madame Auring** and **Mahal** to keep the proceedings steamy and spicy. This has made them popular, but also infamous to some extent.

Recently, however, Keanna and Mystica experienced a radical and redemptive change of image that could inspire others who also want to rise above their unhappy or unsavory state in life.

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

Keanna's "rehabilitation" has come by way of the "Pinoy Big Brother" show. When the reality challenge started, Keanna was one of the least popular "housemates," because her controversial reputation had preceded her.

Little by little, however, the show highlighted her candid and spontaneous side and her ability to be funny—even without trying.

In time, more people were won over to Keanna's side. *Masa* voters also warmed up to her "What you see is what you get" projection. More surprisingly, even activist organizations even hailed her as a woman who deserved, not condemnation, but support.

As a result, Keanna's own self-image began to improve. She remained her sassy self, but she no longer had to make a livid spectacle of herself just to get noticed or generate publicity—and consequently, work.

Thus, it really wasn't a surprise to some show biz insiders when Keanna ended up topping the "PBB" popularity tilt.

Aside from the big prizes that came with the title, Keanna won a big bonus in the radical rehabilitation of her image.

For her part, Mystica boosted her image when she competed in ABC-5's celebrity dance challenge, "Shall We Dance?"

She elicited the admiration of the show's jurors and viewers alike when she did much more than her usual split, pole and lap dancing.

Her foray into ballroom dancing has challenged Mystica to rise above her standard dance shticks, and to push herself to transform, not just her dance technique, but also her attitude toward performance.

Gone are the "cheap" projection and cliche sexy moves of old, which have been replaced by a new sense of professionalism and sophistication that is admirable to behold.

We trust that both Keanna and Mystica continue to develop and improve both as performers and people. And we trust that other show biz folks whose careers are in a rut learn how to similarly think better of themselves and turn their lives around.

This will benefit not just the show biz people in question, but also the viewing public, because it will be spared the irritation of having to watch cheap, amateurish or trying-hard performances on the tube.

Mystica and Keanna have shown that rehabilitation *is* possible for some off-putting denizens of the show biz world, so things are definitely looking up!

## Ryan Cayabyab, The Music Studio

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3 BANDIDAS MTRCB: R-13 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
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| D' LUCKY ONES GP 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50 | AMERICAN SOLDIERS R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:25 | ICE AGE 2 G 11:30,1:30,3:30, 5:30,7:30,9:30 |

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# '2006 is turning point for RP economy'

## Dutch banking giant cites 'pockets of strengths', raises growth forecast

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YEAR 2006 IS A TURNING POINT FOR THE PHILIPPINES, which has freed itself from a fiscal crisis and is now in a good position to lock in gains from resilient economic fundamentals, Dutch banking giant ABN-Amro said.

In an upbeat country assessment dated April 7, ABN-Amro upgraded its gross domestic product growth forecast for the Philippines for this year to 5.4 percent from 4.8 percent, citing "pockets of strengths" arising from a likely recovery in farm output and strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers that boost private consumption.

But the new forecast for this year is near the lower end of the 5.5-6.2 percent GDP growth targeted by the government.

"We believe 2006 marks the turning point for the Philippines; the nation is no longer struggling with a ballooning debt problem so the government can shift the focus back to longer term issues such as infrastructure and social development," the bank's report said.

It noted that investor confidence in the country remained high and the attempted coup in February was brushed aside with no more than a knee-jerk selldown in the stock and foreign exchange markets.

"We believe this is what investors should continue to focus upon—an economy that has shown resilience

2006/ B4

## Smart targets OFWs with new Saudi service

By Daxim L. Lucas

LEADING WIRELESS NETWORK Smart Communications Inc. widened its international reach as it launched its roaming services in Saudi Arabia.

The new deal between Smart and Saudi-based Mobily (Etisalat) is expected to benefit the close to half a million overseas Filipino workers employed in the kingdom.

"Starting April 16, 2006, Smart's more than 20 million prepaid subscribers may use their cell phones in Saudi Arabia and make voice calls to friends and loved ones in the Philippines," the company said in a statement.

Through its partnership with Mobily, the leading mobile services provider in Saudi Arabia, users of

SMART/ B4

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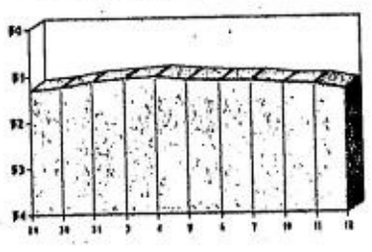


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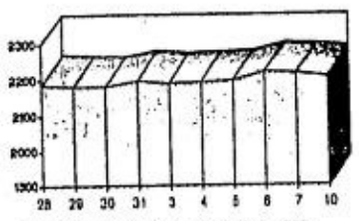

SHARE PRICES ARE EXPECTED to remain lethargic after the Easter break with a few bursts of energy mid-week, analysts and fund managers said.

"The market has been pretty aimless on thin volume (last) week. Volume should improve post holidays," said Jojo Gonzalez, president at Philippine Equity Partners Inc.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

The PSEi managed to eke out a 7.2-point gain during a three-day trading session to close at 2,223.97.

Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management said the market should consolidate this week as investors assess the adverse impact of higher oil prices on economic growth and

SLOW/ B10

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Taguig entices SEC, DTI /B3

World Bank allots $1.8B in loans for next 3 years /B4

Inflation seen declining to 4.3-5% /B7

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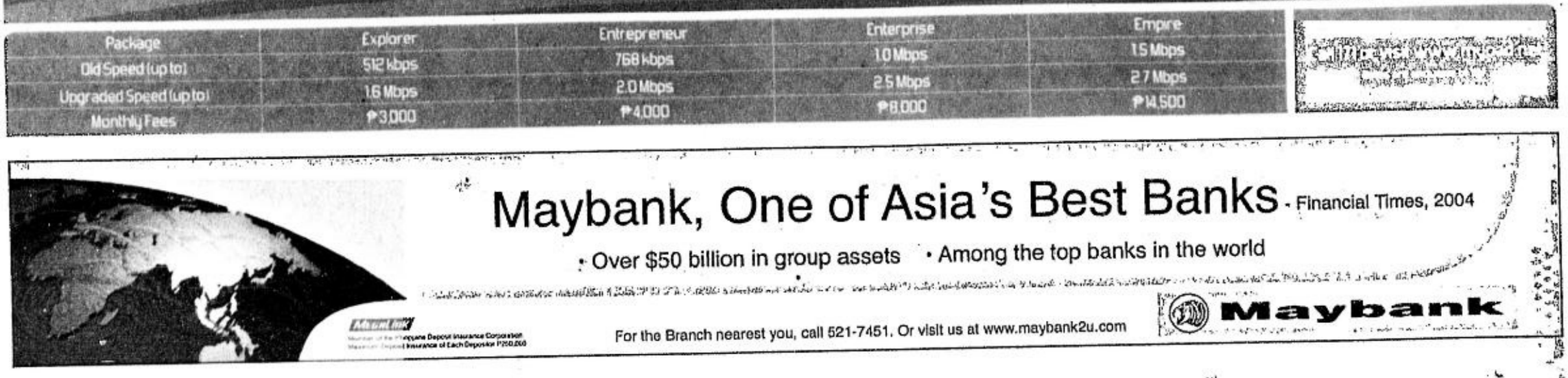

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# Gov't hires consultant for Panglao airport

By Daxim L. Lucas

A Japan-based infrastructure consulting firm has been commissioned by the government to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed Panglao international airport in Bohol, a ranking transportation official revealed.

The hiring of the consultant comes as the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) officially allocated the funds that will be used to acquire land for the new airport on the resort island.

In a recent briefing for the media, DOTC Assistant Secretary Robert R. Castañares said that the government has hired Pacific Consultants International Asia, Inc. to come up with a definitive study on the P2.3-billion airport project.

He declined to reveal the value of the consultancy deal but said that it was being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which is the Japanese government's aid implementing unit.

Since funding for the project will come from Japanese government aid, the agency also has the prerogative of choosing the project consultant, the DOCT official explained.

The results of the study is expected to be ready in a few months after which the actual civil works on the airport will begin.

This early, however, Castañares said the government is already moving to secure the property that will be needed for the new airport.

He revealed that some P110 million has been released from the DOTC's budget to acquire the land on which the airport will be built.

The official did not disclose the total land areas which will be required for the airport, although a runway that will meet international flight standards will have to be around 2,500 meters long. The total land area for the airport may therefore exceed 100 hectares.

Castañares said his department does not anticipate any land acquisition or right of way disputes with existing landowners.


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# Taguig entices SEC, DTI

THE FORWARD-LOOKING MAYOR OF Taguig, Freddie Tinga, has all but convinced the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry to relocate and form the nucleus of a government financial center in The Fort.

According to the grapevine, Tinga is looking at allowing up to 10 hectares of city land for usufruct use of the financial agencies, provided the Department of Finance, which currently shares space with the Bangko Sentral in the congested district of Malate, is also brought on board.

There is a powerful incentive for Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila to favor the Taguig transfer.

The Department of Trade and Industry currently pays about P230 million a year in lease payments for the five low-rise buildings it occupies on Buendia.

The SEC has been scouting for a new, bigger office to replace its structurally challenged building near the corner of Edsa and Ortigas.

The SEC would have chosen a squatter-infested area in Quezon City near the Bangko Sentral Mint as its future site had not Taguig gotten wind of the plan.

A meeting between Tinga and SEC Commissioner Jesus Martinez, the SEC official in charge of the relocation plan, was hastily arranged, with

## COCKTALES

*Victor C. Agustin*

SEC Chair Fe Barin later on agreeing that The Fort would be more accessible to investors and the market than the Quezon City site is.

What needs to be done now is to commission an architectural and engineering study to align the future site—an undeveloped tract adjoining the McKinley Hills village after the Essensa condo—with The Fort's master plan.

And that, according to the grapevine, is

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# World Bank allots $1.8B in loans for next 3 years

## Money subject to 'substantial, sustained' fiscal reforms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK HAS ALLOTted up to $1.8 billion in fresh lending to the Philippines from this year to 2008 but subject to "substantial" and "sustained" government fiscal reforms.

Official documents on the country assistance strategy mapped out by the multilateral agency for the three-year period said: "The scale of lending will be determined by progress on fiscal reforms, reflecting the overarching importance of fiscal adjustment in the short-term and the need to mitigate and manage risks."

The WB's strategy for the three-year period was still based on the medium-term Philippine development plan and had two main goals: economic growth and social inclusion.

"It identifies two important levers for pursuing these goals: achieving fiscal stability and improving governance," the bank said.

Unlike last year when many multilateral and bilateral lenders were still hesitant to commit larger scale program lending, WB country director Joachim von Amsberg recently said the multilateral lender along with the rest of the international donor community had taken a more optimistic view this year.

"WB is considering making the use again of development policy lending, which it has not used in the Philippines for some seven years. This is in a sense a seal of economic good housekeeping that the WB provides based on the assessment that the (government) plans laid out to us are convincing and are indeed allowing a fiscal turnaround," Amsberg said.

The WB's support would cover three levels of engagement—national, local and the private sector.

At the national level, the WB said its priority would be to improve governance and financing within the existing budget and would thus require improving in-country systems and processes.

"Similarly, our strategy will avoid overburdening programs with impractical objectives and excessive innovations. One implication is a move toward more sector-wide operations focused on core functions and services within the budget, away from specific investment projects that are not compatible with fiscal constraints," the bank explained.

Government sources privy to the recent Philippine Development Forum with multilateral and bilateral donors said the WB had committed to provide a $450-million "fiscal strengthening" program loan this year. This would be on top of a $200-million loan intended for the health sector and another $100 million for the education sector.

At the local level, the WB said its strategy would involve a greater integrated, cross-sectoral focus on the local government units in order to increase the likelihood of better results across all services delivered by these LGUs.

"Central to this effort is developing a performance framework and capacity-building program for LGUs that is consistent across projects," the bank said.

Linking financing and capacity-building to a clear performance framework, the WB said, would facilitate good governance at the local level.

"At the private sector level, our strategy promotes private investment by helping to strengthen regulatory agencies, reduce the cost of doing business, improve finance investments for public-private projects as well as in sectors with high growth potential," it said.

## Smart targets OFWs . . . From page B1

Smart Buddy, Talk 'N Text, Smart Kid Prepaid and Addict mobile prepaid (AMP) may avail themselves of roaming services while in the Middle Eastern country, it added.

According to the company, the new roaming services were made possible through the Customized Applications for Mobile Network Enhanced Logic (Camel) solution, an adaptation of the intelligent network standards for GSM, which Smart uses for its prepaid international roaming service.

"Now, our prepaid subscribers who travel to Saudi Arabia can keep in touch with their loved ones back home with ease," Smart's wholesale business group head Roger V. Quevedo said.

He added that the company was also intent on further expanding its international reach in terms of roaming services.

"This is just the first," Quevedo said. "We're committed to bringing this latest roaming technology to more countries very soon."

Quevedo added that Camel would be available to the other Middle Eastern countries in the next few weeks, helping the company tap other markets which are heavily populated with OFWs.

Smart prepaid subscribers roaming in Saudi Arabia can make a call by dialing the phone number as they would while in the Philippines, using the international dialing format, which is to key in + <country code> <area code/mobile access number> < phone number>, and press "call."

"Smart's system employs a very simple procedure, unlike other prepaid international roaming alternatives, where customers have to remember long strings of digits and confusing sets of procedure," Quevedo said.

The company, a unit of telecommunications giant PLDT, has 20.4 million subscribers on its network as of end-December 2005. It has existing partnerships with more than 180 countries for its international roaming services.

## '2006 is turning point . . . From page B1

and (corporations) that remain innovative in increasing their top lines in a tough macro environment," ABN-Amro said.

Aside from the favorable impact of sustained OFW remittances, expectations of a weak La Niña weather pattern should boost agricultural output and thus perk up household income as the farm sector employs 40 percent of the country's labor force, the bank stressed.

It projected that ample rainfall would benefit crops such as palay, sugar and coconut, which account for 26.4 percent of the country's farm output.

Services, which contribute 48 percent to domestic output, are also seen to remain robust, riding on the continued strong demand for business process outsourcing.

An improved take-up of residential property was also noted during the past year, aided by rising household incomes.

"Recent capital appreciation has also seen property purchases emerge as a good alternative to savings deposit, as the rate of return has finally surpassed the pace of inflation," it said.

ABN-Amro said the growth in the BPO sector had also led to sustained strong demand for office space.

"We expect a low interest rate environment this year and hopefully, the lower cost and greater availability of funds will encourage further take-up of consumer credit and mortgage loans, extending the current upswing in private consumption," it said.

"The competition in the consumer segment has the potential to begin driving down lending rates especially in the mid-income housing segment where developers are adopting a volume growth strategy to sustain earnings growth," it added.

## Cocktales

From page B3

where the rubber meets the road. Taguig does not yet know from whose pockets it would raise the money, not only for the master plan but for the pre-development expenses, as well.

### Lawyers' P200K tune

LAWYERS are like jukeboxes; both need money to start singing a chosen tune.

But, strangely, even the pro bono UP Law Center apparently needed financial inducement to join what the opposition considers a noble cause—the impeachment of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Unknown to his Liberal Party mates then, Senate President Franklin Drilon authorized the release of P200,000 as payment for the UP Law Center for its study on the North Rail project; the study subsequently became one of the grounds for the failed impeachment bid against the President.

The check was subsequently withdrawn and replaced when word leaked out about the questionable disbursement, with "cash" becoming the new payee and "payment of legal research for Liberal Party" as the purpose.

### Money-go-round

• THE STATE-CONTROLLED Poro Point Industrial Corp. is deliberating on the possible cancellation of the 1998 contract awarded to Bulk Handlers to develop the San Fernando seaport. If that happens, expect another major headache for the GMA administration.

• AND speaking of Poro Point, no less than Filodelfo Roxas Jr., chair of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, has asked the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. to delay the issuance of the casino license to Thunderbird Resorts, according to an internal BCDA document.

### Heard through the grapevine

STUNG by the non-answer of Ayala patriarch Jaime Zobel to their letter-appeal, Greenmeadows residents opposed to the Globe cell phone tower have joined forces with their counterparts in Dasmariñas Village, Rancho Estates and other Metro Manila subdivisions also opposed to the construction of such towers in their subdivision parks.

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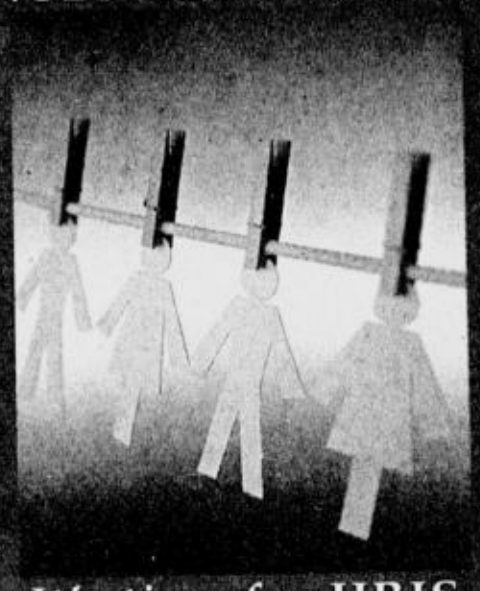

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# Wasted gifts

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WHEN IS A FISCAL incentive necessary and when is it a waste? The government has to deal with this question as it looks for more ways to strengthen its finances, with the hope of balancing the budget by 2008. All in all, a total of P175 billion in potential tax revenues is estimated to be given up by the government every year, all in the name of stimulating more investments in the country.

## Gifts from taxpayers

In the end, fiscal incentives are gifts from us taxpayers. They have the same effect as giving the recipients outright cash to help ease the burden of their costs. The ultimate impact is that we all lose from having less government services and infrastructure that the lost revenues could have financed, or from having to shell out more in taxes to make up for the foregone revenues.

Who gets these gifts from us? Congressman Joey Salceda takes nine fine-print Powerpoint frames to present the list of beneficiaries. The single biggest portion, P157 billion, arises from tax and duty exemptions (P152 billion) and income tax holiday (P5 billion) granted under RA 7916 or the Peza Law to firms in export-processing zones. These incentives are justified as needed to attract foreign investors into the country. The second biggest part (P10.4 billion) comes from tax subsidies granted under EO 93 to certain government corporations, notably NFA (P9.7 billion), LRTA (P639 million) and several others. Tax incentives also go to LGUs, BSP, PTV-4, Pagcor, the National Museum, National Dairy Authority, and the Comelec, to name a few. Also benefiting are labor unions, cooperatives, jewelry industry imports, aviation fuel importations of PAL, Cebu Pacific and Aboitiz, fishing vessel importations, and a host of many others.

## Redundant or not?

This begs the question: Are the gifts deserved, or needed? Are we all getting more benefits in relation to the cost these incentives impose on society at large?

These questions were addressed in a study by Dr. Renato Reside of the UP School of Economics and the Ateneo Economic Policy Reform and Advocacy (EPRA) project, initial findings of which were presented recently to the Department of Finance (DOF), who had requested the analysis. A standard approach to the question in other countries has been to assess the "redundancy rate" of the fiscal incentives granted. An incentive is considered redundant when a firm granted the incentive would have made the investment anyway even in the absence of the incentive. In this case, the incentive imposes a real cost to the government (i.e. revenues actually lost) and to the economy. Furthermore, it is an expense that does not yield any additional benefit. The redundancy rate is the percentage of investors who would have made the investment even without the incentives given them.

On the other hand, if a firm decides to invest in the country primarily because of the incentive, and would not have invested without it, the cost to government is zero. That is, without the incentive, there would have been nothing to tax anyway. At the same time, the economy benefits from the additional investment in terms of new jobs, as well as improved technology that foreign firms may bring in. It is therefore critical to the analysis of fiscal incentives to determine when they are redundant and when they are not.

## Reinforcing redundancy

Dr. Reside observes that the screening and approval procedure of the investment promotion agencies, particularly the Board of Investments (BOI), actually reinforces the redundancy of fiscal incentives. Conceptually, incentives are most warranted for projects where economic returns (i.e. net benefits to society as a whole) are much higher than financial returns (net financial benefits to the direct investors). Logically, projects with high financial returns need no incentives; they are attractive enough even without them, and incentives would only be redundant. But BOI screens pro-

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# Foreign buying of stocks up 17.9%

## Exchange expects further increases in coming months

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOREIGN BUYING IN THE STOCK MARKET during the first quarter expanded 17.9 percent from its year-ago level, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) said in a statement.

Data from the PSE showed that gross foreign stock market buying from January to March reached P91.9 billion from P78 billion in the same period last year.

Net foreign buying—or total foreign buying less selling—hit P16.69 billion, 17.8 percent higher than the P14.2-billion in the same three-month period last year.

"Net foreign buying increased despite accelerated selling among foreign investors for the first quarter of the year," said PSE president Francis Lim. "From only P63.8 billion a year ago, foreign selling increased by 17.9 percent to P75.2 billion."

In March alone, foreign selling accelerated by 60.6 percent to P39.2 billion from P24.2 billion the previous month.

Gross foreign buying, on the other hand, climbed to P41.8 billion in March.

"Based on the data, one can draw the conclusion that doubts about the stability of Ms Arroyo's government somehow bothered investors, and that explains the increased selling," Lim said. "We at the PSE wanted to avert the selling. That's why we have been repeating our call for a peaceful and orderly resolution of our political problems."

Lim also noted promising signs that foreign buying will further increase in the coming months.

For instance, net foreign buying during the fourth and last weeks of March exceeded P1 billion a week.

"I consider this significant because, during the second and third weeks of March, the stock market suffered a P514-million net foreign selling," Lim said.

Net foreign buying reached P7.2 billion on the third week of February.

## *BDO cited among Asia's best banks*

BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK IS ONE of the best performing companies in the region, according to Euromoney's 10th Asian Company ranking published in its December 2005 issue.

The prestigious international business publication said that BDO was the "Most Improved Company in the Philippines" and was simultaneously ranked "Third Most Improved Asian Company."

The bank was likewise cited by Euromoney for having the "Most Convincing and Coherent Strategy" among banking and financial institutions in the Philippines, corresponding to a third place ranking in the same category for the region.

The ranking is based on a survey of market analysts working for banks and research institutes in Asia.

BDO is the country's fifth largest bank in terms of resources with an asset base of P234 billion as of Dec. 29, 2005.

Banco de Oro's loans and deposits ranked fifth at P77 billion, and sixth at P159 billion, respectively, as of the same date.

BDO was also voted 2005 Best Managed Company in the Philippines, Medium Capital Category by Asiamoney, a sister publication of Euromoney.

In another global survey also conducted by Euromoney under the first Euromoney Real Estate Awards, BDO was also selected as the Philippines' "Best in Commercial Banking" for financing real estate developments through the loans booked and other forms of financing arrangements.

This was based on the criteria of the best services in real estate by geography and areas of service.

The award is meant to provide an objective guide for various players in the real estate business worldwide.

## Budding BPO firms draw ALI's eye

THE GROWING DEMAND OF BUSINESS processing and outsourcing (BPO) firms for space has drawn the attention property giant Ayala Land Inc., according to ALI president Jaime Ayala.

Victoria Añonuevo, ALI group head for corporate business, also said that the company may set aside roughly half a billion pesos for future BPO-oriented projects.

ALI has responded to the demand for office space from the BPO sector by adding 36,000 square meters of BPO-dedicated leasable area to its inventory last year.

ALI also plans to build two BPO campuses, one to be located north and south of Manila.

ALI completed three build-to-suit buildings for specific clients in the Makati central business district and in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The Sta. Rosa building is envisioned to be the catalyst for the development of a BPO campus in Canlubang.

Over the next five years, ALI aims to grow its leasable area with new buildings to be built in Quezon City and Alabang.

Rental revenues from its four office buildings and new BPO buildings reached P432 million last year, accounting for 68 percent of total segment revenues.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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| CLUB | SELLER | BUYER |
|---|---|---|
| Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino) | 1,100,000 | 1,050,000 |
| Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner) | 1,200,000 | 1,050,000 |
| Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club | Please Call | - |
| Baguio Country Club | Please Call | 500,000 |
| Caballegan Golf Club "A" | 40,000 | - |
| Caballegan Golf Club "B" | 100,000 | - |
| Camp John Hay | 200,000 | 170,000 |
| Canlubang | 500,000 | 450,000 |
| Capitol Hills | 60,000 | - |
| Cebu Country Club | 1,500,000 | 1,350,000 |
| Celebrity Sports Club | 120,000 | 100,000 |
| Club Filipino | 100,000 | - |
| Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C" | Please Call | - |
| Forest Hills "A" | 100,000 | - |
| Forest Hills "B" | 200,000 | 150,000 |
| Forest Hills "C" | 200,000 | - |
| Makati Sports Club "A" | 180,000 | - |
| Makati Sports Club "B" | 250,000 | - |
| Manila Golf (Corporate) | - | 11,500,000 |
| Manila Golf (Individual) | - | 11,000,000 |
| Manila Polo | 2,600,000 | 2,250,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "A" | 340,000 | 300,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "B" | Please Call | 600,000 |
| Manila Yacht Club | 310,000 | 200,000 |
| Mimosa (Individual) | - | 160,000 |
| Mimosa (Corporate) | - | 450,000 |
| Mt. Malarayat Gold "A" | 230,000 | 200,000 |
| Mt. Malarayat Gold "C" | 350,000 | - |
| Orchard Golf Club "A" | 200,000 | 140,000 |
| Orchard Golf Club "B" | 370,000 | 325,000 |
| Orchard Golf Club "C" | 350,000 | - |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 160,000 | 125,000 |
| Rockwell Club | Please Call | - |
| Spa & Lodge | 450,000 | 400,000 |
| Sta. Elena "A" | 1,200,000 | 1,100,000 |
| Subic Bay Golf | 200,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Country Club | 330,000 | 300,000 |
| Tagaytay Highlands | 680,000 | 600,000 |
| Tagaytay Midlands* | 650,000 | 600,000 |
| Valle Verde (Individual) | 90,000 | - |
| Valle Verde (Corporate) | 200,000 | 160,000 |
| Valley Golf | 230,000 | 180,000 |
| Wack-Wack Golf Club | 6,300,000 | 6,175,000 |

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As of April 17, 2006

| CLUB | SELLER | BUYER |
|---|---|---|
| Alabang Country Club A/B* | 1,100,000/1,200,000* | Pls. Call |
| Alta Vista B/Corp.* | - | Pls. Call/300,000* |
| Baguio Country Club | - | 500,000 |
| Camp John Hay | - | Pls. Call |
| Canlubang Golf | 500,000 | Pls. Call |
| Canyon Woods | 125,000 | - |
| Capitol Hills | 60,000 | - |
| Cebu Country Club | Pls. Call | 1,350,000 |
| Celebrity Sports | 120,000 | 100,000 |
| City Sports Club Cebu | - | 580,000 |
| Club Filipino | 110,000 | - |
| Eagleridge A/B*/C** | 330,000/580,000** | 150,000/Pls. Call* |
| Eastridge A/B* | Pls. Call | - |
| Evergreen | 65,000 | - |
| Fairways & Bluewater | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Forest Hills A/B*/C** | 120,000/200,000* | 150,000* |
| Ludella Golf | Pls. Call | 300,000 |
| Manila Golf Corporate | Pls. Call | 11,500,000 |
| Manila Golf Individual | Pls. Call | 11,000,000 |
| Manila Polo | Pls. Call | 2,300,000 |
| Manila Southwoods A/B* | 350,000/Pls. Call* | 320,000/700,000* |
| Makati Sports Club | 180,000 | 160,000 |
| Manila Yacht Club Ind. | 350,000 | - |
| Metropolitan Club A/B* | 250,000 | 100,000 |
| Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3** | Pls. Call | 150,000/300,000*/400,000** |
| Mt. Malarayat A | 230,000 | - |
| Orchard A/B*/C** | 180,000/Pls. Call/450,000** | 150,000 |
| Punta Fuego | 400,000 | - |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 160,000 | Pls. Call |
| Riviera Golf A/B*/C** | 90,000/150,000/250,000** | 125,000* |
| Rockwell Leisure Club | Pls. Call | 180,000 |
| Royale Tagaytay CC | 80,000 | - |
| Sherwood A/B*/C** | 70,000/150,000** | 80,000* |
| Sta. Elena Golf A/B* | 1,150,000 | 1,100,000/1,500,000* |
| The Palms Country Club | 500,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Country Club | 330,000 | 310,000 |
| Tagaytay Highlands | 680,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Midlands | Pls. Call | 600,000 |
| The Country Club | 2,000,000 | - |
| Tower Club | 140,000 | - |
| Valley Golf | 210,000 | - |
| Valle Verde Ind. | 100,000 | - |
| Wack Wack Golf | 6,150,000 | 6,175,000 |

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| SELLING | | BUYING | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ALABANG A | 1.1M | ALABANG B | PLS. CALL |
| BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 550K | ALTA VISTA B | 330K |
| CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB | 500K | BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 520K |
| COUNTRY CLUB@TAGAYTAY | 350K | CAPITOL HILLS | 60K |
| FOREST HILLS B | 180K | CLUB FILIPINO | 90K |
| EAGLERIDGE A | 150K | EAGLE RIDGE B | 280K |
| EAGLERIDGE C | 330K | MANILA GOLF IND | 11.0M |
| MAKATI SPORTS | 180K | MANILA GOLF CORP | 11.5M |
| MANILA GOLF CORP | 12.0M | MANILA POLO CLUB | 2.350M |
| MANILA POLO CLUB | PLS. CALL | MANILA SOUTHWOODS B | 700K |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS A | 330K | ORCHARD A | PLS. CALL |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS B | 750K | ORCHARD B | PLS. CALL |
| MANILA YACHT CLUB | 350K | RIVIERA GOLF B | 130K |
| MT. MALARAYAT A | 250K | RIVIERA GOLF CLUB C | 180K |
| PUNTA FUEGO | 400K | ROCKWELL CLUB | 200K |
| ROYALE TAGAYTAY | 70K | SPA & LODGE | 400K |
| SUBIC GOLF CLUB | 120K | STA. ELENA A | 1.0M |
| TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 550K | STA. ELENA B | 1.450M |
| TOWER CLUB C | 300K | THE PALMS | 400K |
| VALLEY GOLF CLUB | 230K | VALLEY GOLF | 200K |
| WACK WACK | 5.150M | WACK WACK | PLS. CALL |

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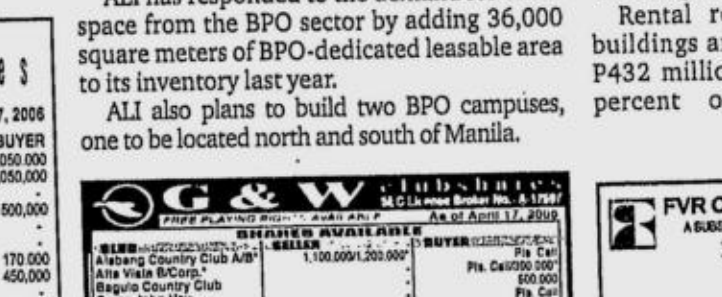

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• Built-in LAN
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P 29,995.

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P 39,995.

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• 64 MB RAM
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• Built-in LAN
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P 49,995.

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• 64 MB RAM
• 100,000 duty cycle/mo.
• Built-in LAN
SRP P 65,000
P 59,995.

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• Built-in LAN
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P189,995.

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• 128 MB RAM
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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 12, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FINANCIAL BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 2,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 35 | 35 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 89,500 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 61 | 61 | 60.5 | 60.5 | 1,333,700 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 19 | 19.75 | 19 | 19.75 | 3,100 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.5 | 0.54 | 0.5 | 0.54 | 15,500,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 71 | 71 | 70 | 71 | 91,800 |
| International Exch. Bank | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 5,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 39.5 | 39.5 | 38.5 | 39 | 1,632,000 |
| Phil. Bank of Comm. A | 51 | 51 | 51 | 51 | 500 |
| Philippine National Bank | 34 | 34.5 | 34 | 34.5 | 12,000 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 14.5 | 15 | 14.25 | 14.75 | 137,100 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 46.5 | 47.5 | 46.5 | 47.5 | 12,700 |
| **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 27.5 | 28 | 27.5 | 28 | 10,100 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 3230 | 3230 | 3230 | 3230 | 80 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30,000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 186 | 186 | 185 | 185 | 2,700 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 2165 | 2165 | 2160 | 2160 | 590 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 1.12 | 1.2 | 1.12 | 1.18 | 12,482,000 |
| **INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| First Gen Corp. | 44 | 44.5 | 44 | 44.5 | 287,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 45.5 | 46 | 45 | 46 | 583,400 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 14 | 14.25 | 14 | 14 | 12,100 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20 | 20 | 477,800 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 3,507,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.3 | 4.35 | 4.25 | 4.35 | 6,164,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 40,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.95 | 0.98 | 0.95 | 0.98 | 950,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| CADP Group Corp. | 1.9 | 1.94 | 1.9 | 1.94 | 17,000 |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 20,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 19.5 | 20 | 19.5 | 20 | 251,700 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 35.5 | 36 | 35.5 | 35.5 | 139,900 |
| San Miguel Pure Foods A | 56 | 56 | 56 | 56 | 100 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.75 | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.76 | 170,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.75 | 669,000 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 270,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 59.5 | 60 | 59 | 60 | 292,900 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 78.5 | 80.5 | 78 | 78.5 | 445,400 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 18.5 | 18.75 | 18.25 | 18.75 | 2,729,200 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 140,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.32 | 0.33 | 5,720,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.46 | 1.48 | 8,551,000 |
| Fortune Cement Corp. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 50,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.45 | 1,824,000 |
| Phil Nat'l Const. Corp. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8,000 |
| **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 10,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 7,300,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 5,600,000 |
| Stanfel Manufacturing | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 410,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.0075 | 0.008 | 25,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 352.5 | 355 | 352.5 | 352.5 | 60,040 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 20,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 2,917,000 |
| Alc.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 30,500,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 2.7 | 2.75 | 2.7 | 2.75 | 148,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 4,130,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 182,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.9 | 0.92 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1,230,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 0.9 | 0.97 | 0.9 | 0.96 | 40,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 4,880,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3.6 | 3.65 | 3.55 | 3.6 | 1,487,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 90,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.85 | 2.9 | 1,915,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 305,000 |
| JG Summit Holdings Inc. | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 33,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 1,050,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 500,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 350,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.145 | 0.15 | 0.145 | 0.15 | 9,000,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 224 | 224 | 223 | 224 | 5,340 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 850,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 11 | 11.25 | 11 | 11.25 | 7,248,400 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.33 | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.35 | 150,000 |
| Belle Corp. | 1.26 | 1.34 | 1.26 | 1.34 | 26,110,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 1.9 | 1.92 | 1.88 | 1.88 | 1,620,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 1.72 | 1.76 | 1.7 | 1.72 | 224,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 560,000 |
| EIB Realty Developers Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 220,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.65 | 0.66 | 0.64 | 0.65 | 41,990,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.025 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.026 | 800,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.65 | 0.73 | 0.65 | 0.73 | 1,570,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.4 | 1.48 | 1.4 | 1.46 | 9,081,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0048 | 0.0055 | 0.0048 | 0.0055 | 49,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0048 | 0.0055 | 0.0048 | 0.0055 | 67,000,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 110,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 690,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. B | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 500,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.29 | 16,770,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 770,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 14,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.29 | 0.33 | 0.29 | 0.33 | 11,610,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 634,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 2,183,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.125 | 0.13 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 6,410,000 |
| **SERVICE** | | | | | |
| **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 2.5 | 12.75 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 28,800 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.95 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 2,270,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 890 | 905 | 890 | 900 | 14,850 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 2.95 | 3 | 2.9 | 3 | 2,688,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1980 | 1985 | 1975 | 1980 | 82,690 |
| **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2,850,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 133,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.045 | 0.046 | 0.045 | 0.046 | 3,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.049 | 0.05 | 7,700,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.12 | 1.16 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 180,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.024 | 0.025 | 0.023 | 0.025 | 83,700,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.42 | 2.44 | 230,000 |
| Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp. | 1.6 | 1.64 | 1.6 | 1.64 | 320,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 11.5 | 11.75 | 11.5 | 11.75 | 1,086,700 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 50,000 |
| **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 1,757,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.78 | 1.8 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 604,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 117,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 10,000 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 2,000 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 3.1 | 3.15 | 3.1 | 3.15 | 16,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Macroasia Corp. | 1.88 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.84 | 290,000 |
| Paxys Inc. | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 225,000 |
| Philcomsat Holdings Corp. | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 4,000 |
| **MINING & OIL** | | | | | |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 1.98 | 2.08 | 1.98 | 2.06 | 9,731,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 2 | 2.1 | 2 | 2.1 | 5,184,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.008 | 0.0085 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 746,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 7.4 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 4,142,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 10 | 12.25 | 10 | 11.75 | 1,240,000 |
| Benguet Corp. B | 35 | 38 | 35 | 38 | 12,800 |
| Dizon Copper Silver Mines | 2.06 | 2.06 | 1.98 | 1.98 | 478,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A | 0.33 | 0.36 | 0.33 | 0.35 | 115,310,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.35 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.37 | 54,860,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.022 | 0.026 | 0.022 | 0.026 | 1,561,600,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.031 | 0.032 | 0.031 | 0.032 | 512,200,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.008 | 0.007 | 0.0075 | 1,444,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 3.75 | 3.95 | 3.75 | 3.8 | 8,694,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 3.85 | 3.95 | 3.75 | 3.85 | 10,195,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 182,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.39 | 0.41 | 0.39 | 0.41 | 1,560,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.4 | 0.43 | 0.4 | 0.42 | 5,900,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 6,570,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.0085 | 0.009 | 151,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.0095 | 0.01 | 56,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.57 | 0.62 | 0.57 | 0.62 | 610,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.58 | 0.62 | 0.58 | 0.62 | 260,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 3.85 | 3.95 | 3.85 | 3.95 | 346,000 |
| **PREFERRED** | | | | | |
| ATS CORP. - Preferred | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 26,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| **WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 13 | 13 | 12.75 | 13 | 198,300 |

## CURRENCIES

| April 16, 2006 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.822842 | 1.000000 | 51.2200 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006963 | 0.008462 | 0.4334 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.439233 | 1.749100 | 89.5889 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.106050 | 0.128883 | 6.6014 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.634468 | 0.771069 | 39.4942 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.719456 | 0.874355 | 44.7845 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.510384 | 0.620270 | 31.7702 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.602815 | 0.732601 | 37.5238 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.183068 | 2.653083 | 135.8909 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.219401 | 0.266638 | 13.6572 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.508807 | 0.618353 | 31.6720 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000091 | 0.000111 | 0.0057 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021648 | 0.026309 | 1.3475 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.224037 | 0.272272 | 13.9458 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.215300 | 62.2477 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.267373 | 0.324939 | 16.6434 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.384146 | 0.466853 | 23.9122 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134039 | 0.162898 | 8.3436 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018416 | 0.022381 | 1.1464 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.224330 | 0.272628 | 13.9640 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.074452 | 0.090481 | 4.6344 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.501763 | 0.609793 | 31.2336 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.127647 | 0.155130 | 7.9458 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.013721 | 0.016675 | 0.8541 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.134528 | 0.163492 | 8.3741 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000862 | 0.001048 | 0.0537 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.107269 | 0.130364 | 6.6772 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015851 | 0.019264 | 0.9867 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025372 | 0.030834 | 1.5793 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000383 | 0.000466 | 0.0239 |

# PVAO treats widows of WWII veterans like beggars

**QUESTIONS OF POLICIES**
*Honesto C. General*

PEACHY IS THE WIDOW OF A World War II veteran. Her late husband, Mon, and I were in the guerrilla unit organized by officers of the Philippine Army Air Corps. We were armed with World War I Springfield 30-cal. rifles brought in by American submarines.

Late in the war, when our unit was hunting Japanese stragglers in the forests of Camarines Sur, Mon and I always brought up the rear of the patrol. We used to tell each other, only half jokingly, that if there were any Japanese snipers around, we would be the first targets. But we were in our late teens as were the rest of the platoon, and the world was for us to conquer.

When Bicol was declared liberated, all the guerrilla units were integrated into the Philippine Army as the Bicol Brigade. After V-J Day, the brigade was demobilized in Camp Murphy, now Camp Aguinaldo. Mon and I went home to Naga to finish high school. Then, we went our separate ways. He studied medicine. I went into mechanical engineering. As "recognized guerrillas," the US government paid our tuition fees under the GI Bill of Rights.

Mon practiced pediatrics in Naga City (my three grandchildren there were his patients) until the early 1980s. Then, he moved his family to Los Angeles. There, Mon and I had a most heart-warming reunion in 1987.

Later, I helped Mon get approval of his old-age pension from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office. Even at that time, PVAO already had cash flow problems. Mon's back pension had to be paid in two installments.

Mon passed away in LA in June 2003. By law, Mon's P5,000 monthly pension passes on to Peachy. But Peachy did not notify PVAO of Mon's death right away. She started getting her monthly pension only in July 2005. To date, PVAO has not paid her pension arrearages.

Peachy has decided to resettle back in Bicol. The other day, I accompanied her to PVAO to ask about the status of her pension arrearages. We confirmed that PVAO owes her P172,000. When will it be paid? We were told there were other widows ahead of her. Right now, the Department of Budget and Management is releasing money to PVAO to pay claims dated 2000. Peachy would probably get her money five years from now. She could get the money earlier when she reaches 80. But since Peachy is 75, this rule is of no help to her.

While I am on this subject, there is another pension plan that remains unimplemented. There is a law enacted at the time of President Ramos granting additional pension of P700 a month to veterans or their widows who had reached the age of 70. Since the law was subject to availability of funds, not a single centavo of this plan has ever been paid out. Today, the total amount owed to these over-aged veterans or their widows is now estimated at a whopping P15 billion.

Now that President Arroyo has ordered the release of P1 billion for veterans' benefits, perhaps Peachy, as well as the rest of the widows like her, will finally get their long overdue money.

Once and for all, the government should stop treating them like beggars.

I wonder how long will the PMA class of 2006 remain loyal to their country, the Constitution, and the chain of command, as President Arroyo asked them to be at the recent graduation rites, when they find out how poorly the government treats its veterans and their widows.

Oops! Am I inciting to sedition, Secretary Gonzalez? If so, please send over your sheriff. I'll come along quietly. Anyway, I know I shall be given a fair trial before I am hanged.

# Inflation seen declining to 4.3-5%

## Risks remain but stable peso easing pressure

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas sees the country's inflation rate easing to 4.3-5 percent by next year despite the possibility of a continuing rise in global oil prices, official documents showed.

The BSP's latest official forecasts indicated the reduction in the inflation target range starting 2007 would be brought about by the expected continued stability of the peso-dollar exchange rate and the softening of domestic interest rates.

"The 2007 forecast is premised on the one-off effect of the reformed value added tax reform (RVAT)," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

"The increases in crude prices have already been assumed in earlier forecast. The risks remain except that RVAT will lose steam," Guinigundo said.

For this year, the latest inflation rate projection of the interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee was a range of 7.3-7.9 percent, overshooting the original target of 4-5 percent.

The higher-than-target inflation forecast for this year took into account the hike in the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting last February, as well as the assumption that Dubai crude prices will hit $62 per barrel, up from last year's average of $49.31 per barrel.

For next year, the government expects Dubai crude prices to average even higher at $63.36 per barrel.

"One risk is the geopolitical tension in Iran, the deterioration of which may result in the disruption of oil supply as Iran produces 4 million barrels of oil a day," a DBCC report said.

Another factor driving the tightness of petroleum products supply in the country is the shortage in local refining capacity, the report added.

"Improving yields from the Malampaya gas field does not lessen the nation's dependence on imported petroleum products. Malampaya's output has a very high level of metal content which cannot be processed by local refineries," it noted.

The Philippines imports 67 percent of its finished oil products requirement and only 33 percent was being refined locally, the DBCC report noted.

The BSP assumed that the peso-dollar rate would remain stable at 51-53 to $1 from this year to 2010. The strong peso, despite some trade-offs in terms of shrinking export margins, is seen to temper increases in the country's inflation rate through the reduction in the import bill.

For 2008 to 2010, the BSP expects the inflation rate to range even lower at 3-4 percent.

The softening of domestic interest rates is expected to further ease the pressure on inflation.

For this year, the BSP projects interest rates based on the 91-day Treasury bill rate to range at 6.8-7.4 percent.

T-bill rates for next year are seen to stabilize at 4.8-5.5 percent and remain steady at 4.5-5.5 percent over the medium term until 2010.

A BSP assessment indicated that the recent increases arising from the VAT rate adjustment should taper off in the second semester.

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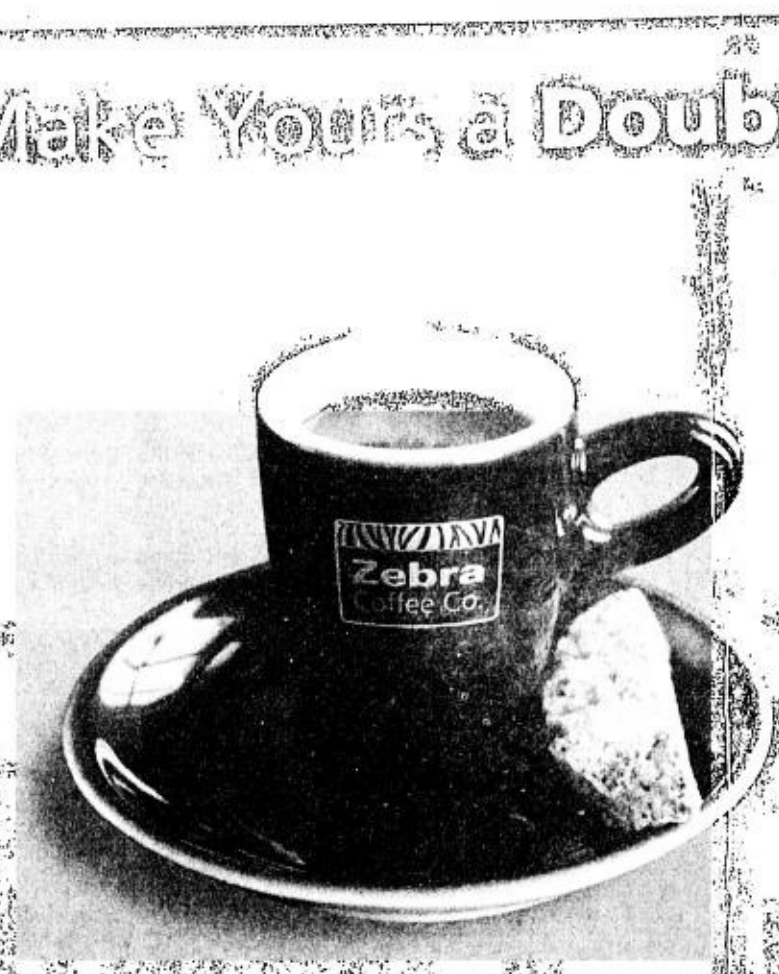


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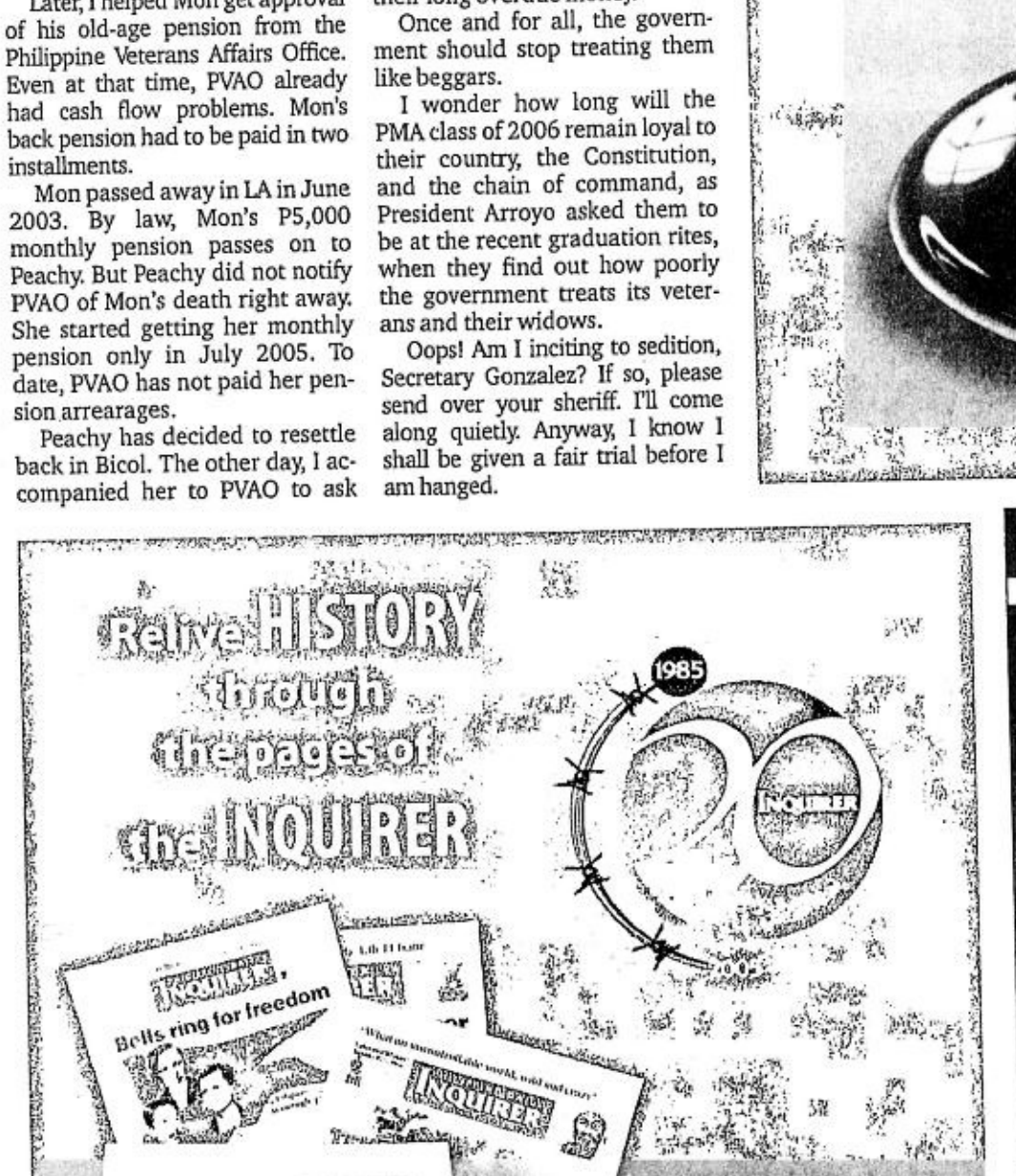


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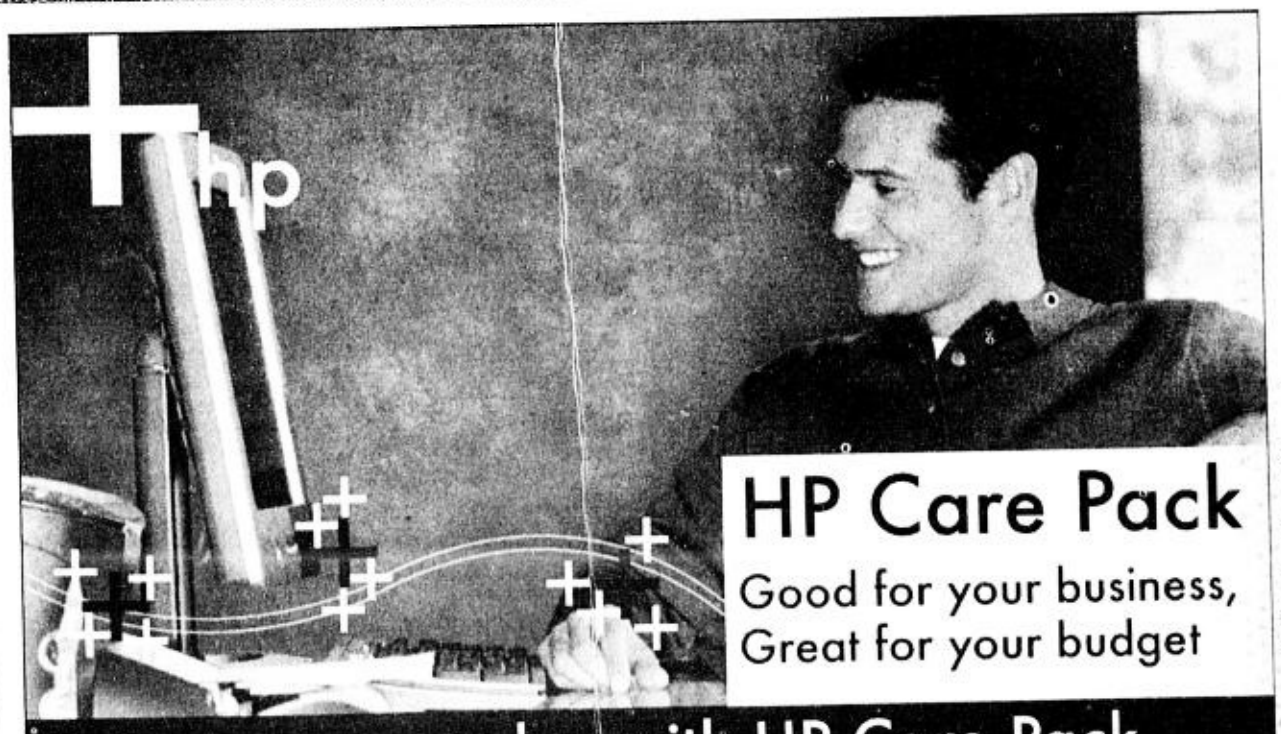


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*Summer Family Fun and Surprises at Terrazas de Punta Fuego*

Kites fly, glitter tattoo sparkles, paellas abound and sangria flows in Deliciosol, a recent tapas gala at Terrazas de Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas. And at the end of the family fun-filled day, three winners of exciting vacation packages emerge raffled out by Landco Pacific Corporation, developer of Terrazas de Punta Fuego, , a Spanish Mediterranean and tropical Asian-themed seaside residential community and Amara en Terrazas, an exclusive seaside residential resort condominium development, .

The Deliciosol day at Terrazas starts with a welcome party of Haribon exhibitors and dressed-up pirates giving away balloon animal sculptures to guests who are all herded to Café Sol for some refreshments. Overlooking the South China Sea, Café Sol presents guests with a myriad of options while enjoying their welcome drinks: lounging in cabanas, a walk on the beach or the garden boardwalk, a tempting dip in Terrazas' signature free-form cascading pool, and a slew of delightful activities in the adjacent garden which is transformed into a mini fair of family fun.

There are booths for bead art, henna and glitter tattoos, paineta hair accessorizing, and zip-spinning demonstration. Haribon Foundation keeps the kids busy evermore with kite making workshop and story-telling sessions. There are also trampolines and giant inflatable slides for the kids and kids at heart. For the more adventurous, complimentary banca rides to nearby islands are available.

A sumptuous Spanish lunch buffet of tacos, paella, ham croquettes, vegetable brochette, banderillos al cerdo, ihaw-ihaw platter, puto especial, and pritchon in the midst live Spanish guitar music performance highlight the midday festivities. And if this is not enough, there's Terry Delicatessen offering free samples of cheese, sangrias, and other European gourmet goodies. A merienda buffet with churros con chocolate, halo-halo, mais con hielo, banana cues, and an assortment of cakes and pastries follow thereafter. At sundown, two instructors dips a pair of zips in lighter fluid and dazzle the crowd with flaming zips loops - a fiery ending to the exciting Spanish-theme event.

Built on gently sloping terrain, Terrazas de Punta Fuego is a premium seaside development with seven pocket enclaves fronting the best swimming beach in Nasugbu. Soon, Amara en Terrazas Oceanfront Residences will rise within Terrazas. Surrounded by pockets of forest reserve and outlined by a gentle rolling terrain towards a majestic mountain ridge, this luxury condominium apartment community offers 95 unique and unobstructed views of the pristine waters of the South China Sea, the Terrazas Cove and nearby communities.

Landco Pacific Corporation is a multi-product developer of high quality residential resorts, leisure farms, residential developments, shopping centers and CBD's, and memorial parks. The company continues to provide superior value in its developments and is widely recognized as a benchmark for innovative and outstanding lifestyle products that revolutionize the way we live.

For more information on Terrazas de Punta Fuego, Amara en Terrazas Oceanfront Residences and upcoming events, please call (632) 809-7316 or log on to www.landcopacific.com.

ADVT.


# Debate on cement perks heats up

## Production capacity seen falling short of rising demand by '07

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEBATE ON WHETHER TO REINSTATE incentives for new cement ventures heats up as the government was urged to determine the real operating capacity of existing manufacturers in view of a possible supply shortfall starting next year.

According to a source, cement firms were reporting a capacity utilization rate that was lower than the actual level. This was apparently aimed at convincing the government there was enough capacity and that there was no need to install new cement capacity.

"A clear distinction should be made between 'reported' capacity and 'operational' capacity, as possible overstating may further exacerbate the already prohibitive price of cement," said the source, who asked not to be named.

The source said that based on a Tariff Commission report completed in 2002, Cemap members had shut down kilns which resulted in a reduction of operational capacity to 13.8 million metric tons.

"Cemap reported that the demand in 2004 reached 12.1 million MT, which means that capacity utilization was at 88 percent and not 57 percent as reported," he said.

He added that if demand was going up at an average rate of 12 percent a year, the capacity shortfall would be felt in 2007 and not in 2010 as projected.

Last month, a trade official said the government was looking at including the cement industry in the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan to encourage new players to put in additional capacity.

The proposal was based on projections under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and Cemap reports on market demand, which showed that there might be a shortfall in production capacity by 2010.

But two weeks ago, administration Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda blasted the proposal saying this was against the government's drive to plug all revenue leakages.

Salceda, who is the sponsor of the pending bill on the rationalization of incentives, questioned the proposal's timing and motive considering the grant of perks to more sectors was imprudent given the government's "precarious" fiscal position.

"At a time when the government is trying to put its fiscal house in order, agencies like the Board of Investments should be more circumspect in dangling hefty tax breaks just to lure investments," Salceda stressed.

The lawmaker cited industry data that showed that local cement demand had stayed relatively flat in the past six years.


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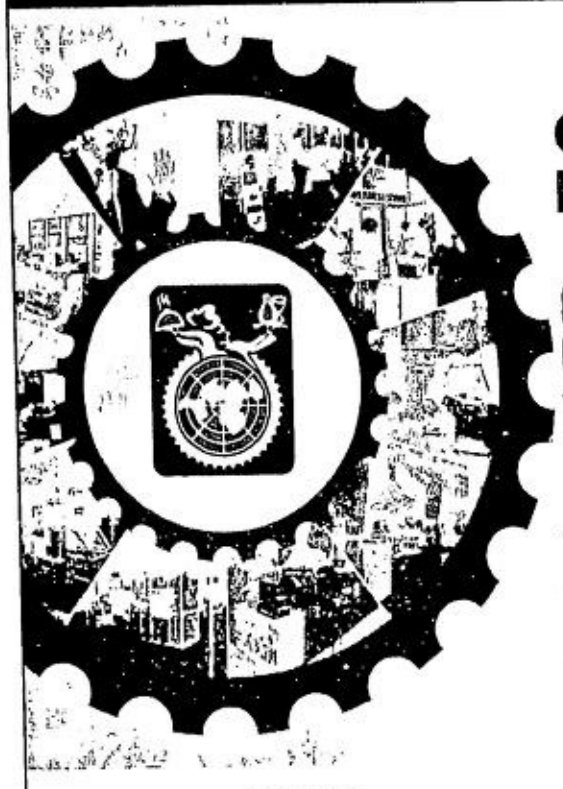

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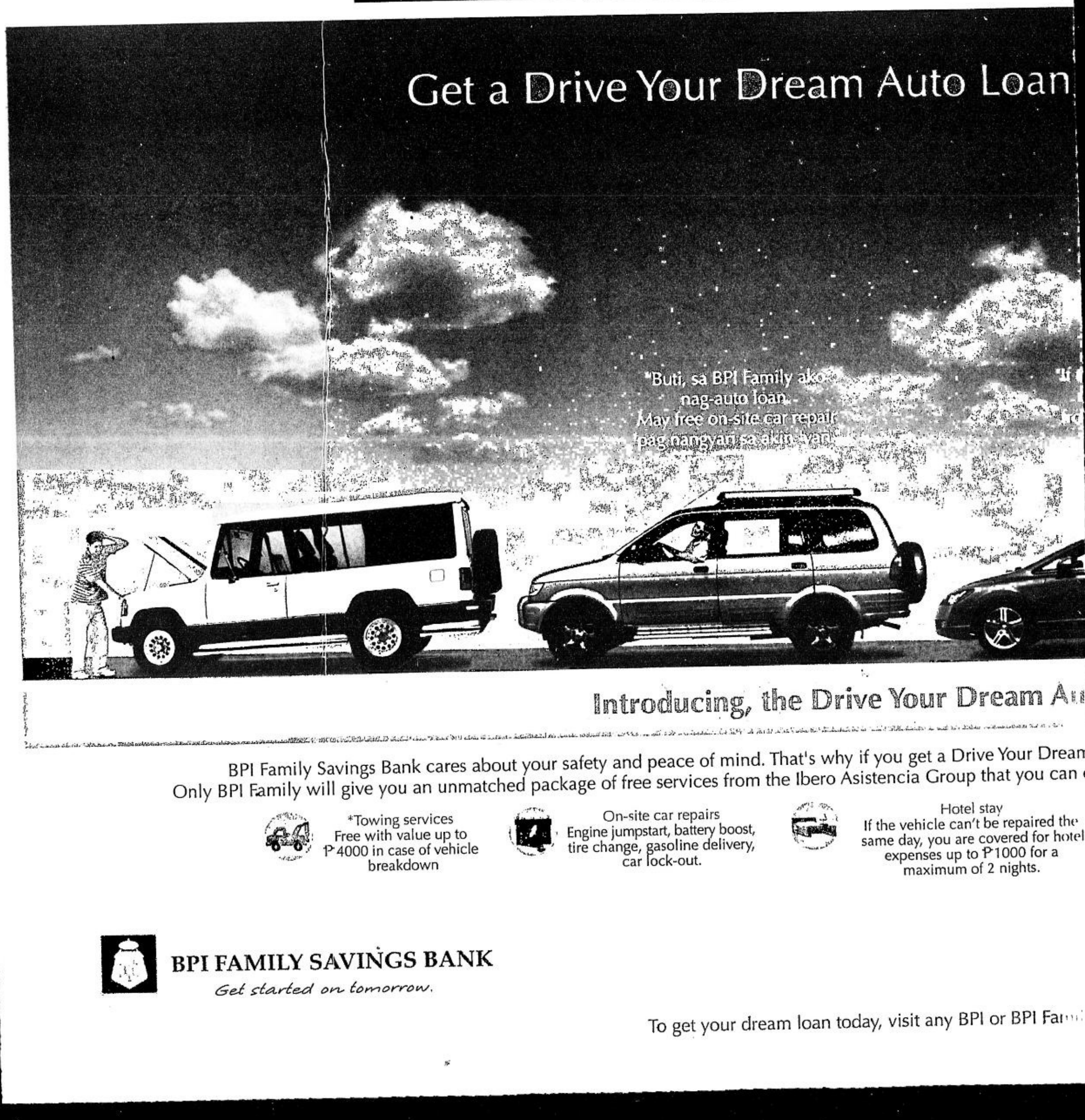


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SGS is participating in the pilot program being conducted by the United Kingdom Accreditation Scheme (Ukas) for the new global food safety management system standard from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has yet to qualify for Ukas accreditation.

SGS Philippines provides gap audits, certification, awareness training, internal auditor and lead auditor training to its clients in the food processing or food supply chain.

ISO 22000 is a business management tool that sets standards for food safety risks, control and reduction of food safety hazards and ensuring legal compliance.

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company.

### Huawei's new exec

HUAWEI Technologies, a leader in the global telecom market, announced the appointment of Renato Garcia as its channel sales director in the Philippines. Garcia will be responsible for the company's local channels program to develop growth in enterprise, government and academic sectors.

Garcia has 17 years of cumulative professional experience in IT sales and technical functions in major ICT companies.

### iBank's My First Account

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) has reintroduced My First Account, a build-up savings account designed for parents who wish to teach their children the value of savings.

MFA shows the depositor that money saved is money earned through exciting gifts and interest earnings. While the depositor's savings earn points that can be exchanged with rewards, it also earns an interest rate of one percent per year, making saving a fun and rewarding experience for the parents and their children.

MFA also provides option for automatic funds transfer from the parent's account to that of the child to ensure the steady build-up of the account.

# China firm to fast-track investment plan

## Reviving Philnico nickel complex

JINCHUAN GROUP LTD., CHINA'S TOP nickel producer, will speed up a $1-billion investment to revive a nickel complex in the Philippines once the owner of the site settles its debts, a Jinchuan official said. State-owned Jinchuan and Baosteel Group, which is China's top steel producer through its listed Baoshan Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. and a 10 percent shareholder in Jinchuan, agreed to the investment in April 2005 but there has been little progress over the past several months.

"It is because of the debt problem," the official said.

Philnico Industrial Corp., which owns the Nonoc complex in the southern Philippines, said last month it hoped to settle its debts worth about $300 million in April.

The debts stemmed from the mid-1990s, when Philnico bought Nonoc Mining from the Philippine government. Much of the payment for the purchase has yet to be made.

Jinchuan submitted a report to revive the Nonoc complex to Baosteel in August last year but the two have failed to reach an agreement, according to Jinchuan officials.

"Baosteel and our company have not agreed on some issues. It has hesitated on the investment," another Jinchuan official said.

A Baosteel spokesperson did not comment on the progress.

Baosteel is also China's second-largest stainless steel producer, after Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel Co. Ltd., which uses nickel as a shining and strengthening agent for the output.

"We should push forward," the first official said when asked what Jinchuan might do if Baosteel withdrew from the Nonoc project, which is Jinchuan's first overseas investment.

The reopened Nonoc could produce enough raw material to produce 41,000 tons of nickel annually, starting in 2008.

That output is important to Jinchuan, which is expanding annual capacity to 150,000 tons of nickel by 2007 from 120,000 tons currently in China.

Jinchuan, which owns China's largest nickel mine, has several multi-year overseas contracts to buy nickel raw materials, including a deal with WMC Resources which BHP Plc./Ltd. bought in June. *Reuters*

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# Neda-ICC OKs P8-B Transco project

## Transmission lines seen ready by December '07

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CABINET-LEVEL NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee (Neda-ICC) has approved the P8-billion Abaga-Kirahon-Bunawan transmission project of National Transmission Corp.

The entire project—composed of the Abaga-Kirahon and Kirahon-Maramag-Bunawan interconnection projects—calls for the installation of 230-kilovolt (kV) lines from northern Mindanao to southeastern Mindanao.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said the Neda-ICC's approval paved the way for the bidding of the various aspects of the projects.

"We have already started the Abaga and Bunawan substation. We plan to complete the project by December 2007, in time for the (commissioning of the) 200-megawatt Tagoloan coal-fired power plant," he said.

STEAG's 200-MW power plant in northern Mindanao should come on stream before the end of next year. It would be the power source for the new transmission lines.

Ortiz said Transco, with the help of the Davao Chamber of Commerce, had to convince Malacañang to approve the project, citing the rising demand for power in southeastern Mindanao.

"We fought for this project and we even argued with our (energy and finance) officials for the funding for this project," he said.

"We're happy and grateful that they eventually saw it as strategic project for peace and progress in Mindanao," he added.

The Abaga-Kirahon transmission backbone project, the first stage of the new transmission backbone system in Mindanao, involves the construction of 240 circuit-kilometers of 230-kV transmission line.

It will upgrade the capacity of the existing Abaga-Tagoloan 138-kV line and ensure the reliable transfer of power from the Agus hydropower plant to the eastern and southern parts of Mindanao.

According to Transco's Project Minta (Mindanao Transmission Augmentation), the project has been initially priced at P2.3 billion and has been targeted for completion by August next year.

The Kirahon-Maramag-Bunawan power transmission project, the second stage of the Mindanao transmission backbone system, entails the construction of 430 circuit-kilometers of 230-kV line. Project Minta initially pegged its cost at P4.2 billion and set its completion date for December 2007.

## *Mining assets transferred to NRMDC*

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PRIVATIZATION MANAGEMENT Office (PMO) has formally transferred mining assets under its supervision to Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. (NRMDC) for development.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and NRMDC president Artemio Disini last week signed a memorandum of agreement formalizing the transfer.

Under the MOA, the privatization body, an attached agency of the Department of Finance, assigned the trusteeship of the mining assets previously held by the North Davao Mining Corp. and Batongbuhay Gold Mines Inc. to NRMDC.

The mining areas of both Davao Mining and Batongbuhay have untapped mineral reserves that NRMDC can develop and manage, possibly with prospective partners.

Earlier, a mix of foreign and local investors have signified interest in participating in the privatization of these mining properties. These include Philippine Metals and Minerals Group Inc., Benguet Corp., Phelps Dodge Exploration Corp., Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., Apex Mining Co. Inc., China Nonferrous Metals Mining Ltd., Toronto Ventures Inc., Lafayette (Phils) and East Asia Minerals.

The North Davao concession in Compostela Valley covers 40,000 hectares.

North Davao mining area was owned by the Elizalde family until it was acquired by the government. The government, through the Asset Privatization Trust, had tried but failed to bid out the asset. The Privatization Management Office took over from the APT.

MORNING fare to consist mostly of educational films while Hollywood blockbusters and new releases to fill in the afternoon and evening slots.

## New Imax theater promises 'something for everyone'

FOR THOSE WHO GREW UP IN THE '70S AND '80s, the planetarium will always be an important piece of school days nostalgia.

Those who joined those field trips as grade-schoolers would certainly remember being ushered into a dome-shaped building to find themselves surrounded by darkness. Then, one by one, tiny lights would lit up the dome's ceiling, and they would be treated to a journey through the solar system and across the Milky Way.

An upgrade to that field-trip experience has long been overdue. Luckily for today's schoolchildren, that upgrade is coming soon. It's not a new planetarium, however. It's a new theater: the Imax at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City, courtesy of San Miguel Corp., Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and the SM group of companies.

FEATURE

### Crystal clear

With a screen as tall as an eight-story building and wrap-around digital surround sound, the 635-seat San Miguel-Coca Cola Imax theater is guaranteed to give moviegoers 10 times the experience they get inside a regular theater.

Images will be brighter, clearer and more detailed, giving viewers the experience of actually being right inside the film.

"Everybody's vision is taken into the screen. You'll feel as if you're inside the movie," says Jim Patterson, vice president of Imax Theater System and a consultant of SM.

This "larger-than-life experience" is made possible with a 15/70 film format, 10 times the size of regular 35mm film.

Apart from its size, clarity and excellent sound system, another special feature of the Imax theater is its ability to screen 3D films.

These films are a far cry from the B-movies of yesteryears where a 3D experience meant looking at a stem seemingly poking out of the screen through funny-looking glasses that are long out of fashion.

"In Imax 3D, films virtually jump off of the screen and float around the theater, giving people the sensation they are in the movie," says Patterson.

"Everything about the Imax is state-of-the-art, but it really is a throwback to those days when going to the cinema was a very special occasion. We want to recreate that experience," says San Miguel president and COO Ramon S. Ang.

### Huge library of films

Several of today's biggest Hollywood releases have been converted into Imax format.

There are also over 200 traditional documentary-style films in the large-format library, including a number of educational and entertaining titles.

These titles will be invaluable as teaching aids, helping students get a better, more visual appreciation of science, history and popular culture.

"Everest," for instance, not only chronicles the drama and tragedy that unfolded at the highest point on Earth. The critically acclaimed Imax film is also a learning adventure that takes viewers through an educational tour on geography, geology, physiology, physics, meteorology and psychology.

### More than one film per day

Unlike most cinemas, the Imax theater will screen more than just one film a day. Its morning fare will consist mostly of educational films. The Hollywood blockbusters and new releases will fill in the afternoon and evening slots.

The people behind the project are now preparing special programs for schools and special interest groups that may want to put the San Miguel-Coca Cola Imax theater in their field trip and outing itineraries.

"There will be something for everyone. We are even planning entertainment and educational tours for one of our important stakeholders, the taxi drivers who ferry people to the mall. We are planning special screenings for them and their families," Patterson says.

## Uniform income tax rate proposed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS and means plans to file a bill that will impose a uniform income tax rate of 30 percent on salaried individuals and lift personal exemptions.

The proposed measure was aimed at simplifying the country's tax system.

An official from the Department of Finance said Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the committee, has asked the DOF to study the implications of the proposal.

Under the plan, the first P100,000 of an individual's annual income will be exempted from tax. The rest will be slapped a 30-percent income tax. The proposal also seeks to remove personal exemptions that complicate the tax payment system.

There are presently seven annual income brackets, each is imposed a different income tax rate. The lowest income bracket of P10,000 is imposed a 5-percent income tax, while the highest bracket of P500,000 and above is slapped a tax of P125,000 plus 32 percent of the amount in excess of P500,000.

The existing system allows personal exemptions. A single individual is allowed to deduct P20,000 from his annual income to determine the taxable income, while a head of a family is allowed to deduct P25,000. Married individuals are allowed to deduct P32,000.

"If you simplify the taxation system, you encourage tax payment," the finance official said.

The official said, however, that the plan needed careful study because it would entail a shift in the taxation system from progressive to proportional.

Under progressive taxation, higher income earners are slapped a higher tax rate. Proportional taxation means imposing the same tax rate on all taxpayers.

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## Slow trading seen

From page B1

corporate earnings going forward. He said the PSEi might trade between 2,200 and 2,400.

Erwin Balita, research analyst at AB Capital Securities, said fund managers would slowly get back into the market during the mid-week as this was usually the trend after a long holiday.

Balita also said the spotlight might be on mining firms with first-quarter earnings due to be released by the end of April.

"Mining is still a play due to gold prices hitting $600 an ounce or a 25-year high. The run-up in gold prices may continue to attract interest in the mining sector," Balita said.

Joseph Roxas, PSE director and president at Eagle Equities, feels differently, saying profit-taking might be seen in mining shares, which have enjoyed gains the past weeks. "People may shift to real estate instead."

PSE president Francis Lim said he observed that the performance of the stock market last week was a rare event.

Data gathered by the PSE showed that from 2001 to 2005, the PSEi had retreated every Holy Tuesday and Wednesday, except in 2004.

"But while the index advanced on Holy Wednesday of 2004, the value turnover that day fell to its lowest for any Holy Wednesday since 2001," Lim noted.

Along with the increase in the PSEi, daily value turnover also increased and exceeded the P1-billion mark.

From 2001 to 2005, daily value turnover during the last two trading days before the Holy Week break never exceeded P1 billion, except on Holy Tuesday of last year, when SM Investment Corp. debuted in the stock market.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

## No Free Lunch

From page B5

jects based on financial viability—i.e. at least 15 percent financial rate of return—along with strong comparative advantage, measured by the domestic resource cost (DRC) ratio, as key requirements. Investment projects do not only get incentives despite being already being financially viable; they get them because they are financially viable! Based on this reasoning, the implied redundancy rate would be very high, if not 100 percent.

### Market- or resource-seeking

Dr. Reside also invokes industrial organization theory to examine the redundancy of incentives. The theory says that investment motivations may either be classified as market-seeking (targeting a large domestic market), resource-seeking (accessing an input available in the host country), or efficiency-seeking (gaining cost advantage due to lower input costs, higher productivity, superior facilities and policies in the host country, etc.). The same theory holds that incentives are of minor importance, and likely to be redundant, for market-seeking and resource-seeking investors, especially where the resource being sought is not easily available elsewhere. But an examination of all grantees of BOI incentives reveals that only 16.8 percent are of the third type, for whom incentives are non-redundant. That is, the redundancy rate for BOI incentives is at least 83.2 percent. On the other hand, Dr. Reside's analysis so far indicates that the Peza incentives have largely been non-redundant, useful and effective.

The inevitable conclusion, to put it mildly, is that we need to do some serious rethinking about BOI and the incentives it grants.

*Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph
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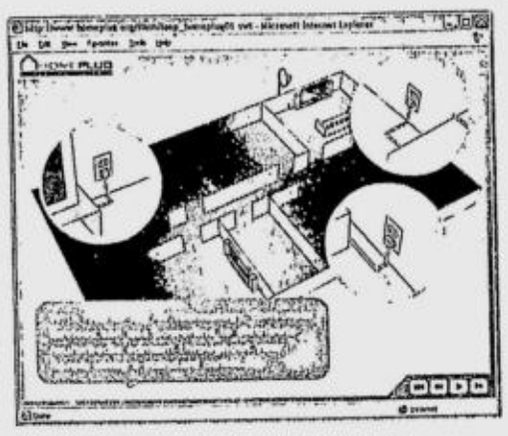
Editor Leo Magno
Text us your feedback: inquirer it name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# Intel slowly building digital home networks

By Leo Magno

*(First of two parts)*



**USING the electrical wiring in homes, HomePlug adapters plugged into electrical outlets become broadband access points.**

INTEL CORP. IS CONTINUING ITS PUSH TOward the digital home entertainment space with plans on innovative ways to distribute data across homes.

The start of 2006 saw Intel making bold moves toward the consumer electronics space with a new logo, new marketing thrust and a new home entertainment platform called "ViiV." ViiV boxes are made by original equipment manufacturers based on hardware and software specs from Intel. ViiV aims to connect various home consumer electronic gadgets such as the television, game consoles, audio and video players to the Internet, with the ViiV box acting as a nerve system for all the digital entertainment data being routed through the home network. This would include digital movies, audio, photos, games and Internet content. All of these would be managed by the ViiV appliance with the TV and the remote control acting as output and input devices.

However, one problem with the digital home setup is the availability of a high-speed network inside homes. Broadband is traditionally delivered to the home via the coaxial cable or Ethernet port from a computer which is already connected to the Internet.

There are about 250 million homes worldwide with broadband, according to Intel's estimates. However, most homes have a limited number of cable or telephone jacks where a network could be expanded. Intel is trying to solve this problem through active participation in the HomePlug Powerline Alliance, a consortium of technology and consumer electronics giants that is creating a standard method of distributing data through electric wires.

Creating a network inside homes entails cabling and wiring or setting up wireless access points, but up to now there is no single effective way of distributing data to cover the entire home. But powerlines are found in most homes worldwide, and this could be a potential network route for digital entertainment data throughout every single room in the house. If data could be made to pass through the electrical wiring using a standard protocol, every electrical outlet would become a network access point. This would enable broadband sharing, wi-fi extension and networked entertainment. Every electrical outlet can become like an Ethernet jack or some other network connection point without installing new wires or cables across the home.

Intel envisions digital entertainment data running throughout the home by connecting the broadband gateway to a HomePlug adapter which is plugged into the outlet. You now have an instant network across the home.

"There are now four million HomePlug adapters being used worldwide," said Donald McDonald, vice president for the digital home group at Intel. "This will enable short-range but high-speed and high-performance networks between consumer electronics devices using the electrical outlets."

You can thus use the powerline to network your broadband connection to different devices or extend wi-fi in dead spots across the home by using a wi-fi extension card in the form of a HomePlug adapter. No new wires are needed, just plug in the adapter and the home will become network-enabled.

Hazama

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AGAINST SOFTWARE PIRACY

**HAZAMA CORPORATION joins the Business Software Alliance in expressing support to the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team and its drive to combat software piracy in the country.**

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# RP food firms line up for slice of halal market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL HALAL FOOD INDUSTRY is making headway in the export market as more companies line up for accreditation, according to the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines.

ICDP Abdul Rahman RT Linzag in an interview said that exporters are now aware of how to successfully tap the multibillion-dollar global halal market. The food firms are now trying to have their products certified by internationally recognized certifiers.

Halal is an Arabic word that can be generally translated as "permissible." In relation to consumables, halal refers to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink, according to their religion.

The IDCP—a nongovernment organization—is the only local agency recognized by the Jakarta-based World Halal Council, Regional Islamic Da'wah Council of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and similar agencies.

Last Tuesday, IDCP signed a memorandum of agreement with Marzell Inc., a food processor and distributor of chicken and other meat products.

Under the agreement, IDCP would monitor Marzell's production processes and certify the latter's chicken products as halal, or acceptable to Muslim communities.

Once Marzell's products have been certified, these may be exported even to the United Arab Emirates, which is considered the gateway to the Middle East—center of the $150-billion a year industry, Linzag said.

He said exporters learned about the strictness of the halal business when the UAE seized an undetermined volume of cargoes from the Philippines in 2004 that bore the halal seal but were found not to be acceptable.

Other food companies that are trying to establish overseas supply markets or are putting up businesses in Muslim areas have also sought the help of IDCP, Linzag said.

"Jollibee and one of its supplier is working with us in relation to (the fastfood chain's) plans of putting up a branch in Indonesia," he said. "We were also tapped to ensure that Goldilocks' polvoron, popcorn and rice crispies are halal."

Also, food giant Nestlé turned to IDCP early this year when the Malaysian government implemented a new rule that it would no longer certify halal production outside Malaysia.

Nestlé used to rely on Malaysian certifiers in its production facilities here until the new rule was set in place.

## *For entrepreneurs, digital arts is the way to go*

**FIRST Academy of Digital Arts churns out world class artists, as seen through the 3D character model (above) designed by Tom Bernardo, an animation student, and the poster design and character illustration (right) rendered by Kiko Mendez and James Maulit.**

AT A TIME WHEN A COLLEGE degree won't guarantee a stable job, then entrepreneurship is the way to go.

Based on the latest figures from the National Statistics Office, there are nearly three million jobless Filipinos. This figure is expected to grow when this year's college graduates get to join the workforce.

It may be good for some of these budding entrepreneurs to turn to digital arts—a sector where competition is still soft and creative artists will surely thrive.

Consider the market of a digital artist and/or a digital art entrepreneur: In commercial advertising, product designs and storyboard presentations are now rendered in digital formats. Also, 3D walk-throughs have sold countless of condominium units and resort villas even before the foundations are laid. In manufacturing, high-tech audio-visual presentations draw interests to an innovation that could not otherwise be sold. In marketing, corporate concepts come to life with digital imagery.

### Highest paid workers

These are on top of traditional products such as printing services to make bookmarks, brochures, business cards, letterheads, postcards, and personalized stationery; design services, such as ad design, book covers, and retail packaging; and web services, which include website design, web hosting, and web support.

High-profile digital arts products, such as game development and special effects in movies and television and simulation productions used for medical and flight demonstrations, have catapulted digital artists to become some of the highest paid workers in the world. A number of Hollywood studios have relied on Filipino digital artists in making blockbusters such as "Finding Nemo," "The Incredibles" and "Toy Story."

With just the right training, equipment and with a proper dose of creativity, the possibilities for a digital art entrepreneur may be endless.

"Business opportunities abound in digital arts," said Freddie Lao, marketing consultant of First Academy of Digital Arts, the pioneer in digital arts education in the country.

The center offers basic and advance digital artist, print artist and multimedia certificate programs. Each program has various modules, which could be taken separately or as a package.

First Academy is known in the industry for providing excellent training to aspiring digital media artists.

### Next big thing

Given that creativity is the main capital base, a modest initial investment for training and equipment will translate to a handsome return-on-investment in time. Freelancing is also an excellent alternative for startups without sufficient capital.

According to Lao, digital arts is the next big thing.

"Going digital is more cost efficient and convenient, so more and more sectors are veering away from traditional print and media arts," he said.

In photography and video editing, films are discarded making for easier file handling, editing and data archiving. Art direction in real-time is also possible in digital format.

Founded in 2001, First Academy initially offered basic courses in web development before moving to more interesting and challenging programs, such as two- and three-dimensional animation and digital storytelling and filmmaking.

### Experts in the field

The school was established by a group of businessmen and information technology professionals who are considered experts in their respective fields.

First Academy offers a free three-hour workshop for interested applicants. For more information, call 898-2724 to 26 or log on to www.firstacademy.net. First Academy is located on the 2nd floor of Saville Building, 8728 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City.

# Jollibee expands US operations, to open another branch in LA

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP., THE COUNTRY'S largest fast food chain, is opening a new store in Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles next week, said Tommy Y. King, vice president for Jollibee's US operations.

Aside from the Beverly Boulevard branch that will open on April 16, Jollibee is also slated to open another store in Panorama City in Southern California by July.

Once the stores open, Jollibee will have a total of 11 branches in the United States, mostly in California.

Jollibee believes it can reverse the weakness in its operations in the competitive US market.

Also, Jollibee is planning on opening a store in China, where it has already gained a foothold through its recently acquired Chinese fast food brand, Yonghe King.

According to King, Jollibee has invested between $350,000 to $660,000 on the average, in setting up the store in Los Angeles.

Sales in its US stores grew 14.6 percent as of February, and 10 percent in January. One store typically posts sales of roughly $3,000 a day.

Jollibee is also studying a plan to put up a store in Las Vegas, and relocate its closed store in Vallejo, California to another site within the city. Jollibee closed the Vallejo store last January.

From January to September last year, Jollibee reported a 6 percent growth in net income to P1.18 billion.

The Jollibee Group, the largest fast food chain in the country, operates a total of 1,429 stores in the country.

# Upgraded biofuel plant set to open

By Abigail L. Ho

COCO-BIODIESEL PRODUCER Chemrez Inc. will soon inaugurate its newly upgraded manufacturing plant, enabling it to produce 60 million liters of coco-biodiesel a year.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the upgraded plant should be inaugurated by May 8.

Once the Biofuels Bill is passed in both houses of Congress, he said more investors should be encouraged to put up similar facilities.

The passage of the bill, he said, should also drive down the cost of coco methyl ester (CME).

Chemrez has expanded its production to 60 million liters a year, four times its current capacity of 15 million liters a year.

Dean Lao Jr., Chemrez operations manager, had earlier said that the company wanted to set aside 70 million liters of coco-biodiesel for the Philippines and only 5 million liters for other countries.

According to Lao, if the country fails to adopt the law by the time the plant opens in May, then Chemrez will have no choice but to export its products.

Exporting all its products will yield as much as P4.5 billion in sales, based on the export value of P60 a liter, he explained.

But Lotilla said the Senate and House committee reports on the Biofuels Bill had both been certified as "urgent" by President Macapagal-Arroyo, ensuring the bill's passage at the soonest possible time.

# Samar sees end to outages

THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION Corp.'s 138-kilovolt (kV) Wright-Calbayog transmission project will be completed on schedule by the third quarter of next year, putting an end to intermittent power outages in western Samar.

Transco president and chief executive officer Alan Ortiz said the state firm recently broke ground for the project, ensuring that the line would be in place before the end of 2007.

"It's a welcome development," Ortiz said. "(The residents) have been asking for it for a long time. This should bring Calbayog to the 21st century."

The Wright-Calbayog 138-kV transmission project will extend the backbone system of Samar Island from Wright to Calbayog City.

The project, part of Transco's Visayas Transmission Augmentation Project or Project Vista, will enhance power delivery in the area with the construction of a 130-circuit-kilometer 138-kV line and a 50-megavolt-ampere substation.

Initially, the project has been estimated to cost almost P717.9 million and is expected to be completed in August 2007.

The project is included in Transco's list of medium-term plans to augment the nationwide transmission grid. *Abigail L. Ho*

Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is hereby inviting prospective bidders to submit their Letter of Intent to Finance, Design, and Construct the planned 7.5-km EDSA North Transit (ENT) Project from North Avenue to NorthRail Caloocan Station through the Solicited Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Scheme. The project will be implemented immediately after NEDA ICC approval.

The proposed bidding shall be governed by the BOT Law (RA 7718) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Submission of Letter of Intent shall be not later than 2 May 2006 addressed to The Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, DOTC at Unit 61, 6th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

**(Sgd.) ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–April 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

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7. Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the position assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9. Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.


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TUE.,(APRIL18) THU., (APRIL20) SAT., (APRIL22) 10:00AM, 2:00PM SUNDAY,(APRIL 23) 2:00PM

- MANILA, WENDYS GIL PUYAT (LRT STATION) (APRIL 21) 5:00PM
- OLONGAPO, RICOS' FASTFOOD, 19 4TH ST. WEST TAPINAC,(APRIL 22)1:00PM 09178426291
- DUMAGUETE, JCS BUS. CENTER 25 FLORES AVE. LOOC.(APRIL 17) 3:00PM
- DUMAGUETE, SIATON GYM,(APRIL18)5:00PM
- DUMAGUETE, BAYAWAN,(APRIL 19) 3:00PM CONT. NO# 0917-8541873
- BACOLOD, JOLLIBEE GAISANO (APRIL 20) 5:00PM
- ILOILO, CHOWKING MOLO,(APRIL 26, AND 30)2:00 PM NO#0928-7977872
- ILOILO, AMIGO TERRACE HOTEL, IZNART ST. (APRIL 29) 2:00PM

CUT THIS AD, FOR SEAT RESERVATION. CONT. NO# 0906-3067169/0919-3773638


Republic of the Philippines
**FOOD TERMINAL, INCORPORATED**
East Service Road, Taguig City

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## INVITATION FOR LEASE PROPOSALS

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| | Building | Area ($m^2$) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Lot 53 | 5,839.00 |
| 2. | Lot 73-A | 3,600.00 |
| 3. | Lot 83 | 2,602.00 |
| 4. | Lot 39-C2 | 848.45 |
| | 2nd Floor | 160.00 |
| 5. | DBP Avenue Bay – 1 | 85.00 |
| 6. | Lot 52 (front) | 399.00 |
| 7. | Lot 64-D | 412.00 |
| 8. | Lot 71-C1 | 450.00 |
| 9. | Lot 64-A | 300.00 |
| | 2nd Floor | 1,080.00 |
| 10. | Lot 23-B | 621 |
| 11. | Old Administration | 157.51 |
| | 2nd Floor | 1,488.00 |
| | 3rd Floor | 2,072.00 |
| | 4th Floor | 609.00 |

Interested parties may obtain additional information by calling Ms. Rosalinda P. Lopez, Senior Manager, **MEMD** at **838-3177.**

***FTI – BAC Chairman***

(PDI – APRIL 17, 24, May 1 & 8, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

## BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Projects/Brief Description | 1) One (1) lot supply, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit CNC Universal Milling/Engraving Machine per BSP specifications.<br>2) One (1) lot supply, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit Ball Mill per BSP specifications |
| Approved Budget for the Contract | 1) P18,000,000.00<br>2) P 1,750,000.00 |
| Delivery Period | Within eight (8) weeks after opening of Letter of Credit (L/C) |

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| *Activities* | *Schedule* |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | 05 April to 27 April 2006 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | 28 April 2006; 9:30 A.M. |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 16 May 2006; 2:00 P.M. |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003 |
| 5. Post-qualification | |
| 6. Notice of Award | |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Item 1: **P9,000.00** and Item 2: **P675.00** to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

**(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–April 17, 2006)


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Republic of the Philippines
**REGIONAL TRIAL COURT**
6th Judicial Region
BRANCH 3
Kalibo, Aklan

IN RE: PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF PRESUMPTIVE DEATH OF THE ABSENTEE VALENTINO TORRES ELCANO FOR PURPOSES OF REMARRIAGE PURSUANT TO ART. 41 OF THE FAMILY CODE
CIVIL CASE NO. 7715

JOELINA TEJADA-ELCANO,
Petitioner.
x----------x

**ORDER**

A verified petition was filed before this Court by petitioner, through counsel, alleging: That she was married to Valentino Torres Elcano on September 20, 1994; that after their marriage, petitioner's husband abandoned her and their children in March 1996 and never returned up to the present; that she has not received any news or information of his whereabouts or whether or not he is still alive; that petitioner and her children looked for and exerted diligent and reasonable efforts in searching for the whereabouts of Valentino Torres Elcano; that petitioner has a well-founded belief that her husband is already dead, and that petitioner desires to start a new life and hopes to remarry and for this reason, she has filed the instant petition pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 41 of the Family Code of the Philippines.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for initial hearing on **MAY 16, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.** at the Session Hall of this Court, Branch 3, Kalibo, Aklan.

Let a copy of this Order be published before the hearing, at the expense of the petitioner, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a widely-read newspaper of general circulation, in order that all persons interested in the above-entitled case may appear before this Court at the place and on the date and hour set herein and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

SO ORDERED.
Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines
March 20, 2006.

(Sgd.) SHEILA MARTELINO-CORTES
Regional Trial Judge

(PDI - April 10, 17 & 24, 2006)


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**NOTICE OF LOSS**

Notice is hereby given of the loss of the following stock certificates in the name of the following companies as listed herein:

ISSUING COMPANY: AYALA CORP.
Registered name Tibayan Management Group International Holdings Co. Ltd., (25276) – 15,000 shares, (33953) – 3,000 shares; (37008) – 5,000 shares.
ISSUING COMPANY: AYALA LAND INC.
Registered Name TMG International Holdings Co. Ltd. (37950) – 5,000 shares.
ISSUING COMPANY: GLOBE TELECOM
Registered Name – TMG International Holdings Co. Ltd. (2815) – 20 shares; (13935) – 5 shares.
ISSUING COMPANY: BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Registered Name: Tibayan Management Group – (181781) – 1,000 shares, (197945) – 250 shares, (229579) – 250 shares, (243863) – 300 shares, TMG International Company Ltd. – (182615) – 2,000 shares; (201075) – 500 shares; (201376) – 1,000 shares; (221033) – 700 shares. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.

(PDI – April 17, 24 & May 1, 2006)

The following stock certificates were declared lost:

1) 6,000 **Meralco "A"** shares serial numbers 29193 & 552777 registered to **Rosita Co**
2) 3,000 **Petron** shares serial numbers 497610, 710643, 1221352, 1438253 registered to **See Sin Tee**

If found, please contact BDO Securities Corp. 848-6300.

If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.

(PDI–April 3, 10 & 17, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
Center for Health Development – Bicol
**BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**
**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054)473-2334 ; (054)473-89-36
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054)473-89-36; (054)473-2334; (054)811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER, through General Appropriations Act of 2006 intends to apply specified sums for the following projects
   a. Project: Procurement of Various Medical and Dental Supplies – (IAEB No. 2006-03)
      Approved Budget for the Contract: **TWENTY NINE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE Philippine Pesos (PhP 29,578,665.00)**
      Sale of Bid Documents : April 17 – May 18, 2006
      Pre-Bid Conference : May 18, 2006 – 9:00AM – BMC Library
      Bid Opening : May 30, 2006 – 9:00AM – BMC Library
   b. Project: Procurement of Various Radiology/Laboratory Supplies and Reagents – (IAEB No. 2006-04)
      Approved Budget for the Contract: **ELEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY THREE Philippine Pesos (PhP 11,101,683.00)**
      Sale of Bid Documents : April 17 – May 19, 2006
      Pre-Bid Conference : May 19, 2006 – 9:00AM – BMC Library
      Bid Opening : May 31, 2006 – 9:00AM – BMC Library
      Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects: Delivery of Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00A.M. to 12:00Noon; 1:00P.M. to 5:00P.M.**, except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP2,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. **Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)**
   2. **Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)**
   3. **GSIS Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)**

   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address: **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054)473-8936/ (054)473-7578
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No (054) 473-8936; (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person: ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer and BAC Chairman

**(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – APRIL 17 & 24, 2006)


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# OBITUARIES

## DR. CARMEN DIAZ TAÑEDO, Ph.D.

*Peacefully joined her Creator on April 15, 2006 at the age of 82.*

Her loving husband, **Benjamin**; children **Jose** (†), **Ma. Judith**, **Benjamin Jr.** and **Bernadette**, **Martin**; grandchildren **Victor, Luisa** and **Benjamin III**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Immaculate Conception Chapel (College Chapel), Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 18, 2006, Tuesday at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

**More Classified Ads on page B2-6**

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# DOF backs bill on tax evasion

## Measure seeks to bar DOJ from handling BIR's tax cases

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS thrown its support behind a bill in Congress that seeks to bar the Department of Justice from intervening in the tax evasion cases being pursued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Under House Bill No. 474, authored by Rep. Danilo Suarez, the BIR is given the exclusive authority to study cases of suspected tax evasion and to file tax-related cases in the appropriate courts.

At present, the BIR is required to forward a tax evasion case to the DOJ. The justice department then files the case in court after it determines that there is sufficient evidence for the case to prosper.

"Referral by the BIR to the DOJ of tax cases for determination of probable cause has become another bureaucratic layer that has considerably slowed down the resolution of tax cases," the DOF said in a position paper. "Removing such hindrance would effectively do away with the time-consuming process and procedure of presenting the BIR's cases before the DOJ, thereby expediting the prosecution of taxes cases."

The DOF, head agency of the BIR, noted that since March last year, the revenue agency has filed with the DOJ a total of 39 tax evasion cases against individuals and companies whose alleged tax liabilities amounted to about P4 billion.

The DOJ has so far filed only three cases with the Court of Tax Appeals.

The DOJ and the BIR have been at loggerheads over the issue of filing the tax evasion cases. While the BIR complains about the delays in the DOJ, the justice department blames the BIR for allegedly filing cases that are weak and lacking in evidence.

The DOF and the BIR have expressed dismay over the time spent by the DOJ on the cases, which is affecting the progress of the Run After Tax Evaders Program (RATE), which was launched last year.

Under the RATE program, revenue officials were supposed to file tax evasion cases every week to impress upon the public that the government has stepped up its efforts to go after suspected tax cheats.

But the BIR failed to sustain the momentum and was unable to file tax cases on a weekly basis.

Individuals that have been charged with tax evasion under the RATE program included high-profile entertainment personalities.

# Official bucks bill preventing GSIS, SSS from buying stocks

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

AN OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNMENT SERvice Insurance System (GSIS) has expressed concern over a bill seeking to bar pension funds like the GSIS and the private sector retirement fund Social Security System from investing in stocks, foreign currency or multilateral and corporate bonds that are seen to generate "speculative and unpredictable" returns.

GSIS senior executive vice-president Roy Joseph Rafols said that the proposed bill will "limit the fund's investment opportunities and venues."

"Our mandate is to make sure that when employees retire, there is a fund available for their retirement," Rafols said at a recent Philippine Stock Exchange press conference.

By his estimate, GSIS' total investable funds run to around P30 billion. At present, GSIS holds investments in blue chip stocks.

. The GSIS has disbursed a total of P18.77 billion in claims and benefits to its members during the first ten months of 2005. The amount is about P3 billion higher than the P15.8 billion in claims and benefits the GSIS released during the ten-month period in 2004.

Under House Bill No. 4237 and House Bill No. 5215 proposed by Iloilo Rep. Arthur D. Defensor, both GSIS and SSS will be limited to invest in "areas which assure predictability in order to protect (their) members from the vagaries of trade and commerce and from enterprises with false pretensions of track record of profitability."

The two bills—which separately sought to amend portions of the charters of the SSS and GSIS—were filed last Feb. 14.

Already, this has drawn stiff opposition from the Philippine Stock Exchange, which is set to protest the bill when the Congressional hearings start.

Under House Bill No. 4237, or the bill limiting the investment of funds of GSIS and amending Section 36 of the pension fund's charter, investments in debt instruments, loans, bonds or promissory notes of any solvent corporation, common and preferred stocks, interest bearing deposits or securities in any domestic bank, and foreign currency deposits will no longer be considered permissible investments.

Defensor said that huge reserve funds are siphoned monthly from the members.

"It is necessary for the GSIS to invest these funds, but only in ventures where profits are definite and the risks involved are minimal," Defensor said. "There are however instances where the returns are too speculative and the risks quite high. Take, for instance, the stock or even real estate and banking ventures: These investments are not disclosed to, let alone understood by, most members."

In another bill, or House Bill No. 5215 seeking to limit investments of SSS and amending a portion of its charter, Defensor wrote that fluctuations in market prices and in foreign exchange rates have unpredictable effects on the funds of the SSS.

Defensor said that investments in stocks, bonds, debentures and other forms of debt, other than in government securities, tend to expose the SSS to "disproportionate risks."


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# Teaching, learning entrepreneurship in China

## Taipan's daughter ties up with Chinese school, sets up campus in Zhejiang

VIVIENNE Tan and Joel Santos leaving the ESA Zhejiang campus.

By Michelle V. Remo

IN A COUNTRY OF ENTREPRENEURS, IT IS surprising that there is no Chinese equivalent of the word in China. The closest Chinese word means "business man."

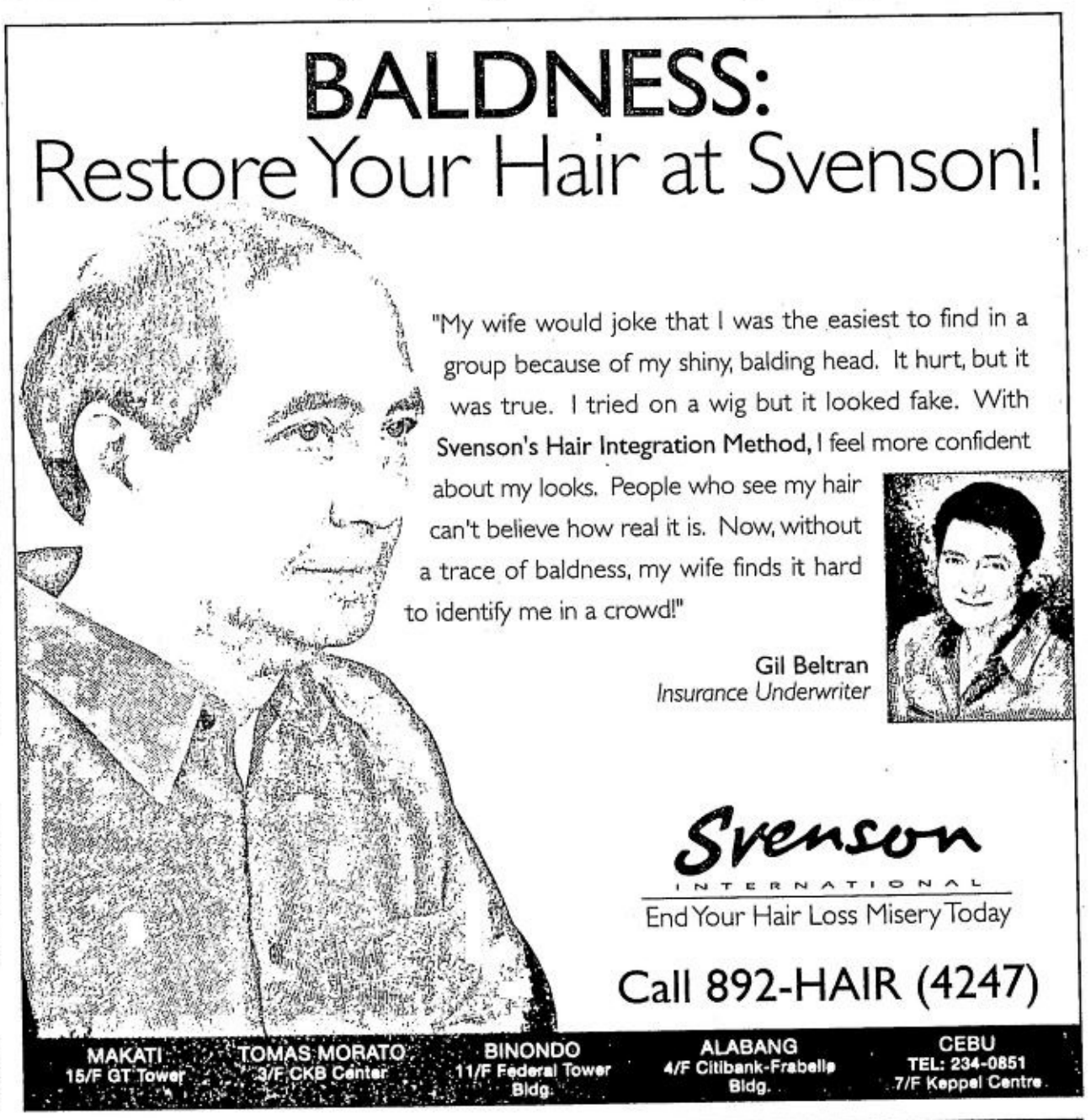
But the Entrepreneurs School of Asia (ESA), owned by taipan Lucio Tan's daughter, Vivienne, has set up a campus in China via a partnership agreement with Zhejiang Youth College of China (ZYC), to teach entrepreneurship.

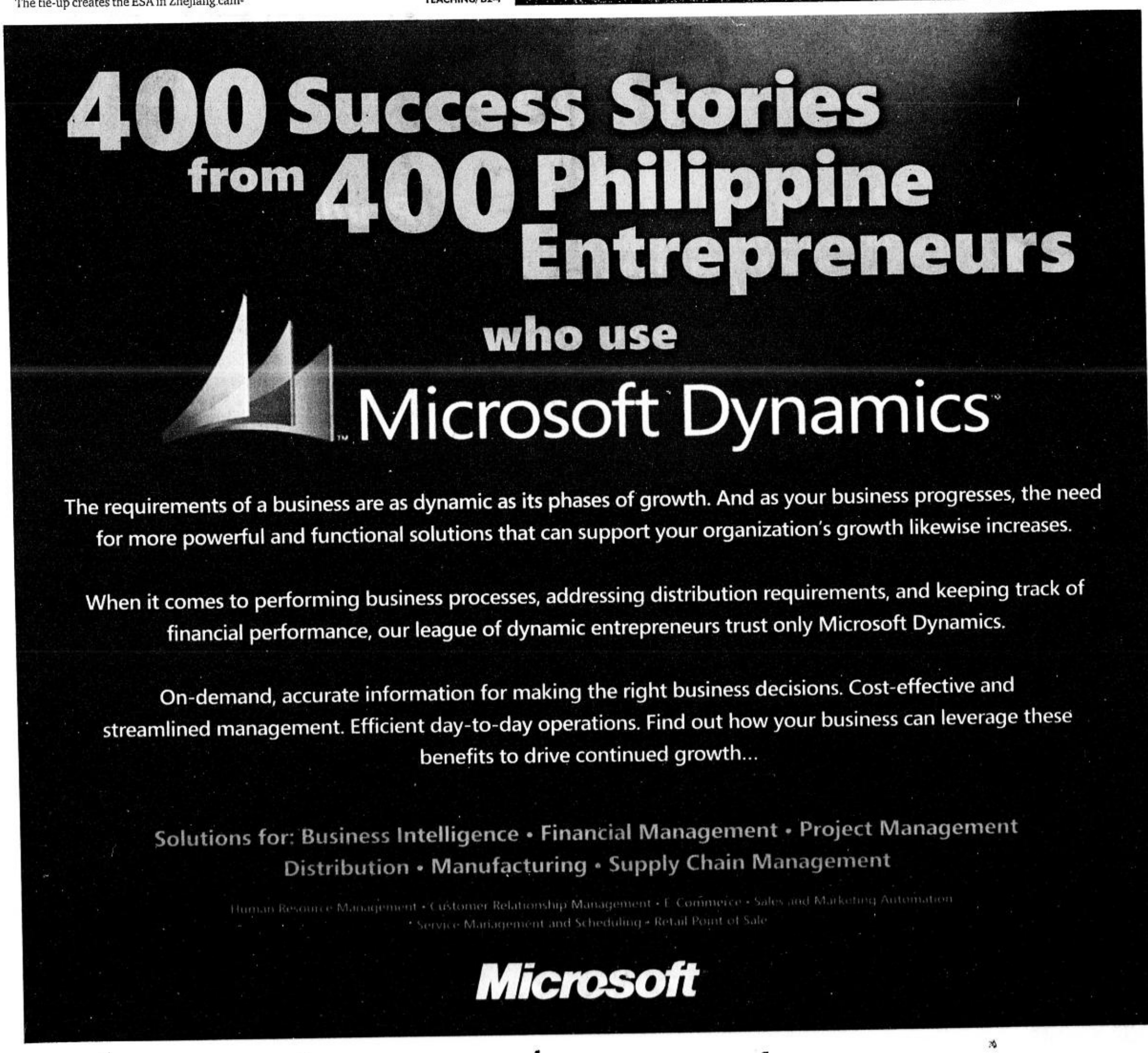
The tie-up creates the ESA in Zhejiang campus and will allow Filipino ESA students to study in the Chinese campus and be exposed to the vast business potentials of China; while at the same time Chinese or foreign students will also be able to study in the ESA campus in Manila to learn more about international business. Or at least take the courses offered by ESA.

### First in China

Interestingly, Joel Santos, managing director of ESA, says the venture creates the first

TEACHING/ B2-4



# Exec gets leadership award

TADENA

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) PHILIPPINES president and managing director Amado Tadena received the prestigious Leadership Award during the GSK Leadership Conference 2006 held recently in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Tadena received this award from GSK chief executive officer Jean-Pierre Garnier. Garnier honored Tadena for leading GSK to market leadership in the Philippines since the merger in 2001.

Tadena, who has been with GSK for 25 years, started his career with the company as sales manager for Glaxo Philippines Inc. He then rose quickly from the ranks to become marketing director, head of sales and marketing, VP for business development, managing director, and in 2001 to his current position of chairman, president and managing director of the GlaxoSmithKline companies in the Philippines.

GSK Philippines president and managing director Amado Tadena received the GSK Leadership Award for leading the pharmaceutical firm to market leadership in the Philippines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# Economic impact of Filipino migration

**MAPPING THE FUTURE**

*Aurelio R. Montinola III*

I WILL HAVE TO START WITH AN Albert Einstein test question. Supposedly, he gave the same test to his graduate students at Princeton, and one confused student said: "Professor Einstein, these are the same questions you gave us last year." To which Einstein smiled, and said, "Yes, but the answers are different."

The OFW issue is similar to Einstein's test. Three decades ago, when Filipino migration began to accelerate, we coined the phrase "brain drain" to emphasize its phenomenon being inimical to national development.

Today, the answer is different, or at least mixed.

Why? There are three major reasons. First, there is globalization, which has brought the world's economies into closer integration. Second, there is the information revolution through the fax, the cell phone, the Internet, and even VOIP. Third, there are changing demographics as the developed countries find themselves with aging populations with job needs, which in turn developing countries (including the Philippines with a 21.6 years median age) fill with mobile jobseekers.

These tidal changes have transformed the 8 million overseas Filipinos into a powerful national force. They have opened the world literally for our people. They have increased many times over the earnings and remittances of overseas Filipinos. Perhaps, as never before, Filipino migration is now in a position to make a lasting contribution to the modernization of the country.

## Migration facts and figures

Whether because of adverse local conditions or attractive opportunities abroad, some 2,700 Filipinos leave daily for abroad—or almost one million annually. Compare this with the situation in 1975 when the Marcos government deployed 35,000 workers as the start of a new national policy.

Next to Mexico, the Philippines has become the second largest migrant sending country in the world, with an estimated 8 million abroad. The key difference is that Mexicans generally go to the neighboring US, while the Filipinos go everywhere.

In turn, after Mexico and India, we are the third largest remittance receiving country.

Of the 8 million abroad, some 3 million are immigrants (permanent), another 3.5 million are contract workers (temporary), and some 1.2 million are classified as irregular.

The $10 billion POEA reported dollar inflows last year come generally from the Americas, with 60 percent of the total. Whether these come truly from the United States or from worldwide remittance companies using US bank accounts is harder to track. Also, some $8 billion come from land-based OFWs and the remaining $2 billion from seafarers.

Top five destinations last year were Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates, Taiwan and Japan; the fastest growing are Qatar, Singapore, and the UAE. Sixty-five percent of the OFWs are women—domestic workers, entertainers, nurses and teachers.

We also supply 29 percent of all seamen worldwide—the largest percentage of any country in the world.

Government has always been involved, through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and this is one area where they have generally been considered to have done well, or at least not badly.

In short, as the columnist Jessica Zafra once stated tongue in cheek, "The Filipinos will rule the world—with a maid in every ruler's bedroom and bathroom." Thankfully, today, we have upgraded our OFWs to our missing, hopefully to return one day, middle class.

## The migration debate

Opinion is mixed on the economic benefits of migration.

One side sees only a negative impact—excessive consumption, perpetuation of a culture of dependence on overseas remitters, and, similar to countries cursed with too much oil, the government's reluctance and delay in passing much needed structural reforms to put our economic house in order.

These reservations are not to be ignored. However, lately, the evidence for a positive economic impact has been compelling.

The Asian Development Bank , in its first in-depth report on OFW remittances, notes, "Remittances provide the most direct, immediate and far reaching benefit to overseas workers, their families, and their country. These international transfers ... are a more constant source of income than official development assistance, foreign direct investment, and other private inflows."

I submit the following additional evidence:

1. At the macro level, country effects have been positive.

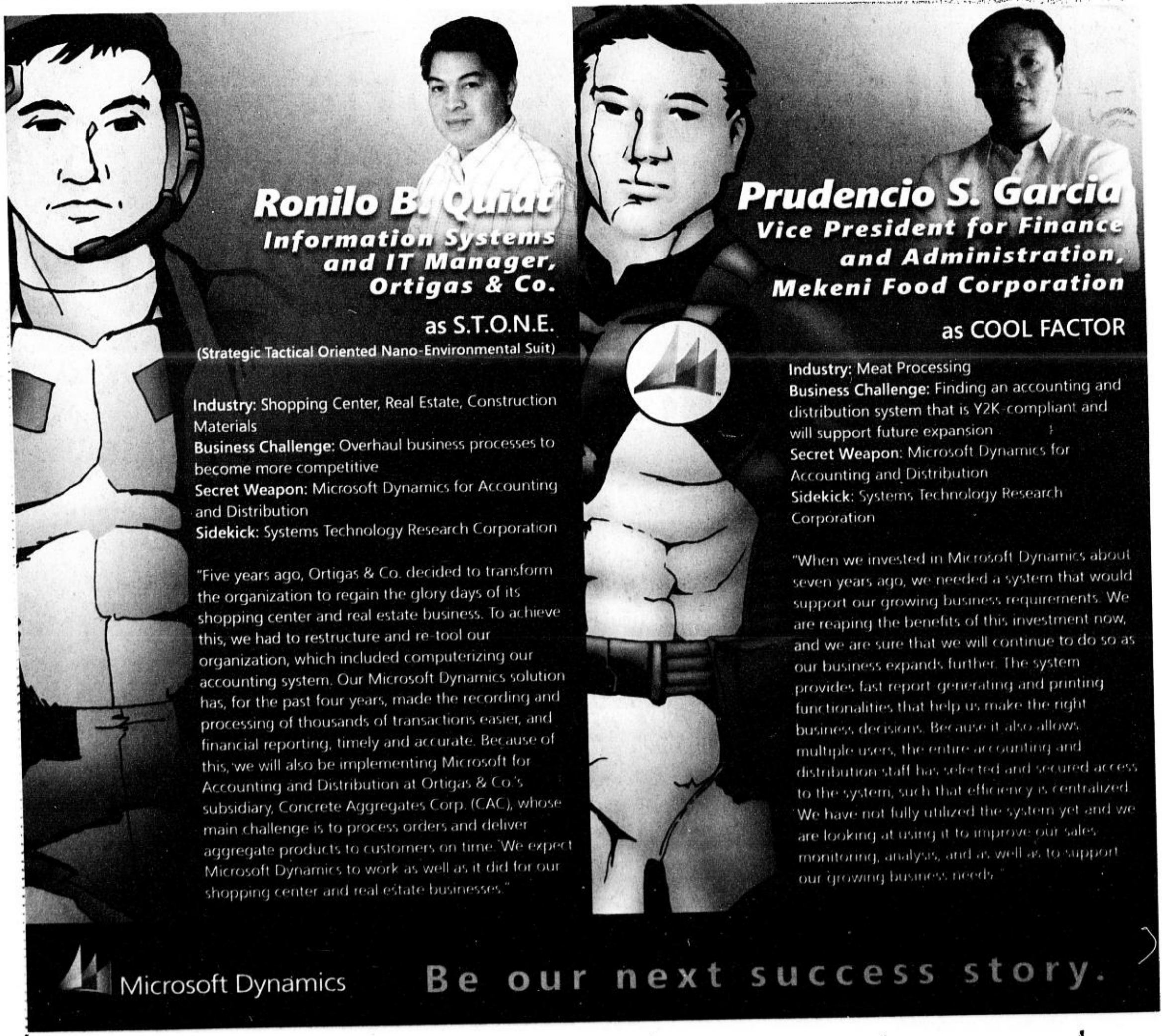
As OFW remittances have steadily grown in the past three years, the peso/dollar rate has increasingly become more stable. In fact, it can be posited that during the dark days of the Asian economic crisis, it was OFW inflows that kept the Philippines from falling further.

OFW remittances pay for the annual amortization of Philippine foreign debt principal and interest. Previous to 2003, this was not the case; however both in 2004 and 2005, OFW remittances cover annual foreign debt amortization, probably the only country in the world to do so. Paradoxically, Filipinos outside the Philippines are paying for the debt of Filipinos in the Philippines.

We hear of other countries using "other people's money" in the form of direct foreign investment or tourism to grow their economies. Our OFWs use "other people's infrastructure" to live and go about their business, and in this way, ease the strain on our own limited infrastructure resources. Put another way, we don't have room for 8 million OFW pay jobs in our country, but our citizens are resourceful and intrepid to find these jobs in someone else's country.

We know that the Social Security System (SSS) and the GSIS pay for the benefits of employed private sec-

ECONOMIC/ B2-5

MISSION

# Quitting as employee to become own boss

MARIO CHAN

MARIO P. CHAN DECIDED TO DO THINGS his way last year. After being a successful employee of the pharmaceutical industry for years he decided to be his own boss.

Climbing the corporate ladder took him 25 years. Starting out as a medical representative in the early 1980s, the 46-year-old Chan was always set to achieve more than others. Rising through the ranks of the different pharmaceutical companies, he ended up becoming the chief operating officer of one of the biggest national pharmaceutical companies in the Philippines. His degree in Business Management from the University of Santo Tomas helped him manage the business to achieve its corporate vision.

But despite his corporate success, something seemed lacking. "It came to a point when I had a timeline for myself and the things I wanted for myself hadn't happened yet. Sure, I was on top but I was still an employee, so then I decided to start my own business," he relates.

He knew it was going to be a challenge to meet corporate giants head-on. So he explored the alternatives and niches in the very competitive pharmaceutical market. With this strategy, he was able to start Scheeling Pharma Care Link Inc.

The name of the firm Scheeling is derived from the foreign currency schilling of Europe.

Chan says "since most of our raw materials are imported from Europe, we decided to name our company schilling but with a different spelling."

Scheeling is a service-driven company that believes quality healthcare makes all the difference in improving quality of life. The firm's aim is to bring innovative and effective medicine to the people.

This it hopes to achieve by a pricing strategy.

"Our products are 30 percent to 40 percent more inexpensive than the leading brands," says Chan.

Having started his career dealing with products for pregnant women and children as a medical representative in the '80s, and having made a lot of friends among obstetrician-gynecologists, Mario decided to go into the production of these products.

But although Scheeling Pharma's product lines are mostly for obstetrical and pediatric needs, they also provide prescriptive antibiotics and injectibles for children and adults; and analgesics and antipyretics. Their latest product is Mama-Whiz, a vitamin formulation for pregnant women. Their capsules and syrups are manufactured by Sydenham Labs, a current manufacturing practice used by pharmaceutical labs throughout the world. On the other hand, their injectibles are imported from Korea. Scheeling's products are available in Mercury Drug, New South Star Drug and other drugstores.

A few more products are still in development and will be launched within the year. Chan hopes with their more affordable prices, Scheeling will be able to provide a better quality of life to some Filipinos. Chan feels more at peace now that Scheeling has taken off the ground. His courageous decision to leave the corporate world was based on this observation: "When you look at it, we should not be afraid of competition. The kite rises not with the wind but against the wind. Without competition, there is no need to achieve. We need competition in order to makes things better and go to higher places."

Respect for individuals through a common value of passion and loyalty in showing concern for others helps foster a sense of belonging and a healthy working environment. These pave the way for a company that is better equipped to handle the stresses of business in an unpredictable economy.

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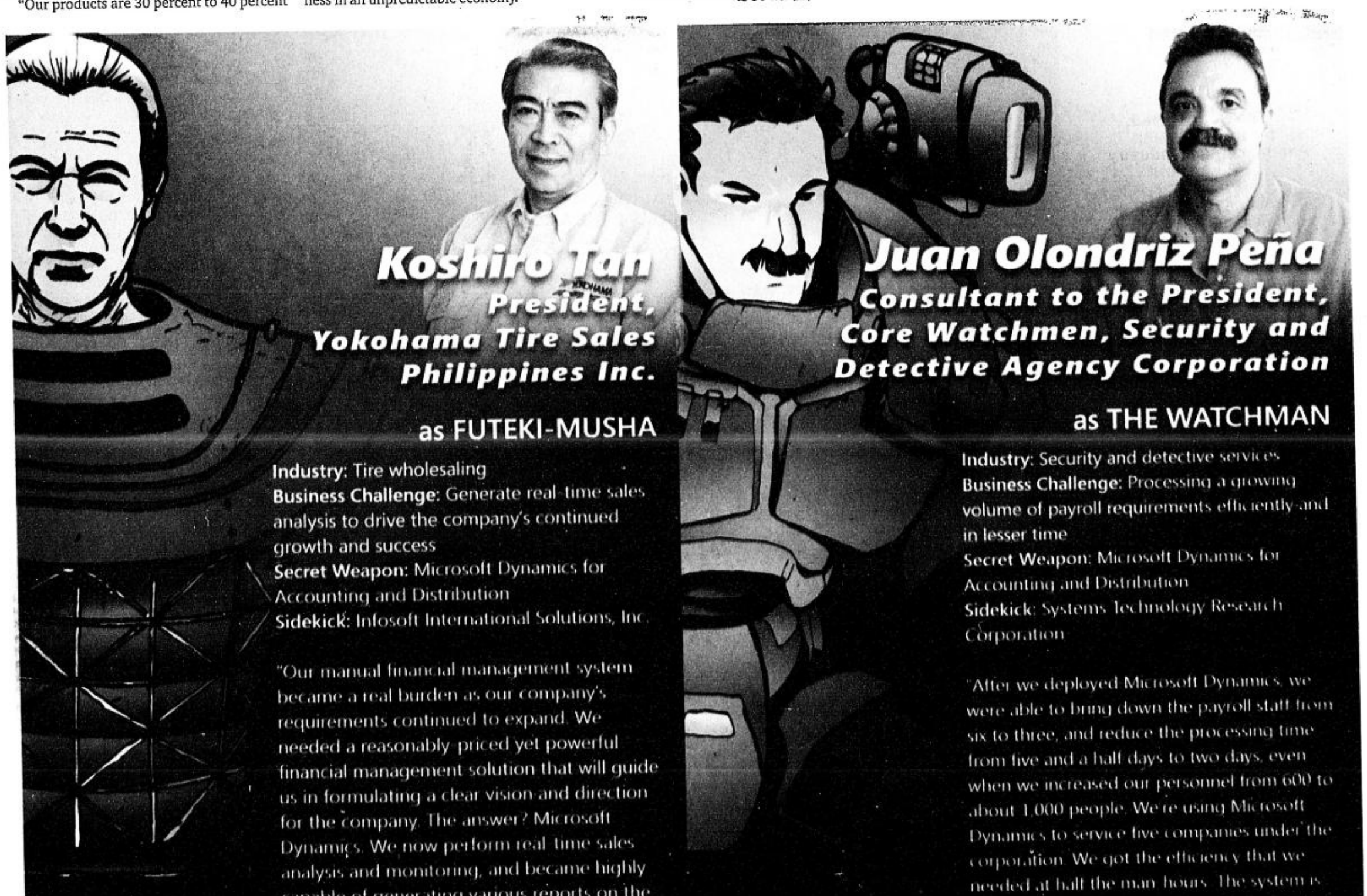

# Teaching, learning entrepreneurship in China

From page B2-1

LUCIO, Carmen Tan and Vivienne Tan, Joel Santos and Wang Yin (president of Zhejiang Youth College)

entrepreneurship school in China. He points out it is only now China is discovering the entrepreneurship degree.

"People already know China as a country that has a lot to offer in terms of doing business. But students don't know exactly how to tap that country's potential, and so we bring them there," says Vivienne, president of the ESA.

She says ESA has been wanting to have a program that will help open a gateway for business opportunities between China and Southeast Asian countries, especially the Philippines.

Santos says that at the end of each program, students sent by the ESA are expected to be able to trade with Chinese businessmen, while Chinese students are encouraged to eventually invest in Southeast Asia, especially the Philippines. Part of the program for non-Chinese is a course on business Mandarin which can be taken from one term to three terms.

Professors from the ESA will be tasked with teaching international business, a subject which includes discussions on foreign business laws and communication. On the other hand, professors from the ZYC will provide the training on how to do business in China as well as teach business Mandarin for one to three terms. The program deems learning Mandarin as vital in establishing relation with Chinese businessmen.

## Perfect site

For Vivienne and Joel, ZYC's campus, located at the city of Hangzhou, is perfect for the entrepreneurship program. Hangzhou, with a local gross domestic product growth of 13 percent a year, is a city in Zhejiang province where small to medium-sized businesses proliferate.

"Since it caters mostly to small and medium-sized enterprises, the city provides a suitable environment for starting entrepreneurs," says Joel.

He notes that ZYC, run by the Chinese government, will help students develop contacts among Chinese businessmen, especially from Hangzhou.

Classes for the first batch of students will begin on April 17. Joel says that for the first batch, the ESA and the ZYC are expecting at least 15 enrollees. The number of enrollees is projected to grow to about a hundred in the next few batches, says Joel.

The ESA has been getting a lot of inquiries about its entrepreneurship program, especially after announcing its tie-up with the Chinese school, he adds.

The entrepreneurship program is not only for Filipino and Chinese students, but also welcomes students from other countries, he says.

## Chinese acumen

Joel adds that the strength of the program is that it provides students with the Chinese acumen for doing business, and at the same time give them education on the eastern-western mix of business practices that mentors from the Philippines can provide.

The tie-up with the Chinese state-owned school is an additional program of ESA which also teaches international business education.

## Foreign partnerships

Prior to the partnership with the ZYC, the ESA already has partnerships with foreign business schools, including the United Kingdom's University of Portsmouth, Oxford Brookes University, Northumbria University and European Business School; the United States of America's Northwestern Polytechnic University; and Australia's Curtin University of Technology.

The partnership with the educational institutions abroad allows college students of the ESA to take their final year and masteral program at these foreign schools.

Narrating how their business school came to being in 1999, Joel says he and Vivienne, who had been friends, were thinking of a business venture that has an element of social responsibility.

"We were choosing between healthcare and education. We ended up choosing education," says Joel, a former venture capitalist who now teaches international business in the ESA. Santos was among the first to set up billboards in Ortigas; was involved in ACT media which had innovative advertising schemes.

Vivienne took up computer science at the University of San Francisco, worked as a programmer briefly in the US, set up a sports garments firm, than joined the family-owned Philippine Airlines.

Taking pride in the achievements of her father and eager to share the entrepreneurial skills she learned from him, Vivienne says putting up a business school was the perfect way to pursue her advocacy.

Vivienne now mentors graduating students of the ESA in designing their own business plans.

## Social development

But aside from teaching practical skills of doing business, Vivienne says, ESA imbibes its students with the principle of entrepreneurship for social development. She notes that in the ESA, value formation is the educational foundation, where skills training on entrepreneurship is based.

"I have always believed that entrepreneurship is key to nation-building. We want to develop entrepreneurs who are not purely profit-oriented but who see that business is also an effective tool to fight poverty," she says.

The ESA carries the thrust of "novus orbus," which means "new order," aiming for its graduates to use their business skills and resources for the benefit of society.

Last year as part of its social entrepreneurship advocacy, ESA gathered 100 micro entrepreneurs from Quezon City and assigned their students to be the "mentors" and consultants of these *sari-sari* store owners, street vendors.

The students taught the micro entrepreneurs on cash flow management, marketing strategies. Santos says they are tracking the results of the mentoring and would be able to assess its impact in a few months.

They are set to start to mentor a new batch of micro businessmen this year.

Tuition fee of ESA in Manila is P42,000 to P43,000 per term. The school is trimestral. For those wanting to study in the ESA Zhejiang campus, tuition fee which includes lodging is $2,000 per term.

ZYC signing between Wang Jin and Vivienne Tan includes Chen Hao, chairman of Zhejiang Youth Federation (equivalent to the Ministry of Youth in Zhejiang), and Jesus Yabes, Consul General of the Philippine Consulate in Shanghai

"Asian Brand Strategy: A New Boardroom Paradigm"
by Martin Roll
Author of "Asian Brand Strategy"

"Building a Culture of Innovation"
by Tony Fernandes
President
AirAsia

"The Brand as the Central Operating Principle"
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**INNOVE HOTLINE.** Innove Communications Inc., through its consumer wireline service Globelines, launched recently Globelines 167 Cebu Provincial Disaster Response Hotline. Globelines subscribers only need to dial 167 for help during disasters, calamities, and emergency situations. Photo shows Innove chief administrative officer Racquel Cagurangan and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

# Economic ...

From page B2-2

tor and government sector employees, but in amounts less than desired. One can posit that the OFWs serve as the de facto SSS of their beneficiary families, many of whom may not be employed, as they steadily send $300-$400 a month to their families. These were about $1.4B equivalent in SSS and GSIS benefits in 2004: if you assume that only 20 percent of total OFW remittances are requested from relatives overseas for unexpected calamities, this already doubles the local SSS and GSIS benefit amount.

While recognizing that population control is a major developing standblock, we have national debates on what is the appropriate form. I will submit that OFWs going abroad is one of the more natural forms of birth control, and as the women majority of OFWs leave and become more educated about globalization, this eases our population control problems. In fact, I am told that our population growth rate has reduced from 2.36 percent for the period 1995-2000 to 2.2 percent estimated for the period 2001-2005; I understand, however, that you have to go below two to make progress.

## Targeting remittances

2. Sectoral influence has likewise been beneficial.

For the banks, targeting OFW remittances started simply as national development assistance and an alternative source of much needed dollars. About 10 years ago, most major banks strategically bet on adding overseas outlets and tie-ups, improving their technology, and then loudly advertising their branding and product reach. The results are impressive, as total OFW remittances through the banking channels have increased from around $2 billion 10 years ago to almost $11 billion today. Also, as competition has increased and as volumes of scale have developed, remittance fees and spreads have come down significantly.

For the telecom companies, the cell phone has been the great global connector. TV ads constantly show overseas families talking to each other, and one day they may even do VOIP conversations at economical prices. Again, aside from the branding focus on this large segment, competition and volumes of scale have enabled the rival telecom companies to advertising continually dropping outward long distance calls, and even text or SMS messages. A guesstimate is that 10-20 percent of telecom revenues come from calls from Pinoys to their OFW relatives.

For property companies, the effects are even more dramatic. Development companies are now building housing communities with OFWs clearly part of the target market, and some companies regularly send sales people to OFW-rich foreign locations. Today, 25 percent of all cash payments and 25 percent of all housing loans are OFW in nature, and this has caused the mini property development boom you are witnessing today.

## Retail shopping

Finally, there is retail shopping, which was the original beneficiary of OFW consumption shopping and eating, particularly during the Christmas season and in all the growing malls around the country.

3. Geographical growth has been noticeable.

Cavite, Laguna and Batangas are primary examples of OFW-driven housing developments. However, there are many other examples around the country.

In fact, a study by Dean Young and Claudia Martinez on remittances and poverty in migrants' home areas observed, "Remittances have broader effects on economic activity in migrant home areas, leading to changes in poverty and inequality even in households without migrant members."

Sadly, it means that families without OFWs are poorer than families with OFWs.

While excessive consumption is criticized, in fact the act of consumption creates a multiplier effect on the demand for goods and services, and even indirect investment. When used for health or education reasons, human development is in fact aided.

Lately, there has been rising evidence that an increasing portion of remittances is being invested and saved. The ADB study indicates that 9 out of 10 overseas Filipinos surveyed in the US save in banks, and 70 percent of these maintain bank accounts in the Philippines. In fact, as all the Philippine banks have improved their overseas reach and their local distribution capability, they have strongly contributed to helping increase the total amount of remittances being sent through formal banking channels to the Philippines.

Given all these, it can be hypothesized that, with some behavioral changes, the OFW funds can be used as an important tool of national development.

## Looking forward

Looking forward, much still has to be done to better understand and study the phenomenon of Philippine labor migration and its impact on economy and society. Professor David has eloquently spoken on the social side, but others will continue the search for more insight.

Overseas Filipinos constitute our country's biggest comparative advantage in the borderless world of our time. We are way ahead of other countries in proactively training and deploying our workers overseas. Before the new global economy emerged, we were already there. Now we are in position to negotiate better arrangements for our workers in receiving countries.

Wired magazine hit the nail on the head when it observed: "The Philippines is the forerunner of tomorrow's distributed economy in supplying nurses, teachers, techies, and sailors to the global village...

"With advances in transportation and telecommunications barreling ahead, it's only a matter of time before the Philippine miracle becomes a standard for the new mobile global order, zapping their wages homeward through space, reentering for a new assignment."

What is strategically significant is that this resource and competitive edge will abide for many more years. The demand for migrant labor will increase, particularly in Europe, Japan and the US, because their work forces are diminishing with every passing year.

The challenge is not whether we can sustain the numbers of our people overseas, but how we can improve their development, maximize their earnings, exact better terms for their labor, and utilize more effectively their remittances for national development.

The ADB study makes this observation that we do well to heed: "The sheer volume, stable growth overtime, and anti cyclical nature of remittances suggest that they hold tremendous potential as a source of external development finance. With resources for development assistance dwindling, migrants' remittances are emerging as a strategy for uplifting conditions in developing countries."

## Harvard program

A Harvard program on International Migration has also been recently initiated, with special focus on the Philippines. Its focus will be to help academe understand the complex dynamics between socioeconomic development and global migration, to assist Philippine policymakers to anticipate and to respond to migration in many countries, and to identify cross border and cross population learnings.

I would also like to thank the Ayala Group, Doris Ho, Washington Sycip, and all other individuals who are doing current research on this same problem today.

## Conclusion

The time for feeling guilty about our OFWs is over. We must shift gears and recognize the vital role they can play in national development and modernization.

The government and the private sector must therefore work together to pursue a strategic policy on labor migration that will eventually turn the current "Brain Drain" into, as Fernando Zobel has stated in another speech, a "Brain Gain." India today is the best example of its overseas nonresident Indians coming back to assist in specific technology locations and fields; if they can do it, why can't we dream the same?

While migrants' remittance reached record levels last year, we now have the more encouraging news that OFWs and their families are saving and investing more. If we can convince them to save and invest in the Philippines, as actually many of them are predisposed to do so at least partially, then even better.

We are constantly told that the Philippines by growing 5 percent GDP a year will at best stay flat. If we can utilize our OFW remittances and their corresponding savings or investment better, perhaps we can raise this to a more growth oriented 7 percent.

As a banker, I recognize the vital role that financial institutions must play in linking remittances to development. Large banks as well as community-based financial institutions should strive to provide products and services that encourage savings among OFWs and support their entrepreneurial ventures. We at BPI will be prepared to assist in these national development objectives.

*(Speech delivered by the author, who is president of the Bank of Philippine Islands, before MAP. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)*

# Exhibit to give local firms taste of foreign flavors

By Amy R. Remo

WITH THE RECENT BOOM OF LOCAL and international franchising and trends of going international, the organizer of Asia's largest and leading international food and hospitality exhibit says that the Food and Hospitality Asia 2006 could provide an international platform for Philippine businesses to get a taste of the international flavor.

"Now on its 15th exhibit, FHA2006 is out to showcase the latest innovations in food and drinks technology, and hospitality services at the Singapore Expo, from April 25 to 28, 2006," says Stephen Tan, chief executive of Singapore Exhibition Services Pte. Ltd.

Tan adds that FHA2006 offers business opportunities for the hospitality industry as it brings under one roof everything that would cater to industry needs—a one-stop shop for hoteliers, restaurant owners, supermarket owners and the like.

Held every two years, FHA2006 will play host to more than 2,800 exhibitors and 42 country groups. It will be held at the Singapore Expo, spanning 65,000 square meters.

The said exhibit is expected to attract some 37,000 trade visitors, of which more than a third will come from outside Asia. The show is strictly for business and trade visitors.

The exhibit comprises seven specialized events, featuring food and drinks, wines and spirits, hospitality and food service technology and equipment, interior and furnishings, as well as baking facilities.

Conferences, workshops, seminars and culinary challenges and competitions will also be held during the four-day event.

TAN

"Philippine companies have been using FHA as a platform to source and procure the latest food and hospitality supplies/equipment for their business needs," says Tan.

This year, there are six direct exhibitors to participate at the FHA2006, including Dole Asia, Mega Fishing Corp., Middleby Worldwide, Optima Display Systems Co., Seagull Glassworks and Sommelier Selections. There are about 33 indirect Philippine exhibitors, whose products will be showcased in the booths of other countries.

The last exhibit, FHA 2004, was attended by more than 400 Filipino trade visitors.

FHA2006 is endorsed by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines and Les Toques Blanches Philippines.

## Tourism boom

"FHA is highly relevant to the Philippines because of the boom in the country's tourism, which grew 6 percent on the average in 2005—at par with the world and regional growth rate," stresses Tan.

According to Tan, this was due to rising visitor volume from Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

He explains further that with this tourism boom, food and beverage institutions need to cope with rising demand for hospitality services.

Tan adds: "The local businesses can definitely benefit from the said exhibit because aside from gaining new ideas and finding new products, they can establish global networking among the more than 37,000 trade visitors expected at the show."

At the FHA2006, one can meet international market leaders from more than 40 group pavilions showcasing products ranging from food to equipment.

Tan hopes, however, to encourage more local businessmen to visit FHA2006—who had opted to go directly to US and Europe instead for the latest food and hospitality technology and innovations.

"It is true that the traditional marketplaces are the US and Europe, but some people have forgotten that Asia has grown and is continuously growing," explains Tan. "And we have to change that mindset because given Asia's economy, it has already risen from the 1997 Asian crisis."

# HGC to honor clients and partners

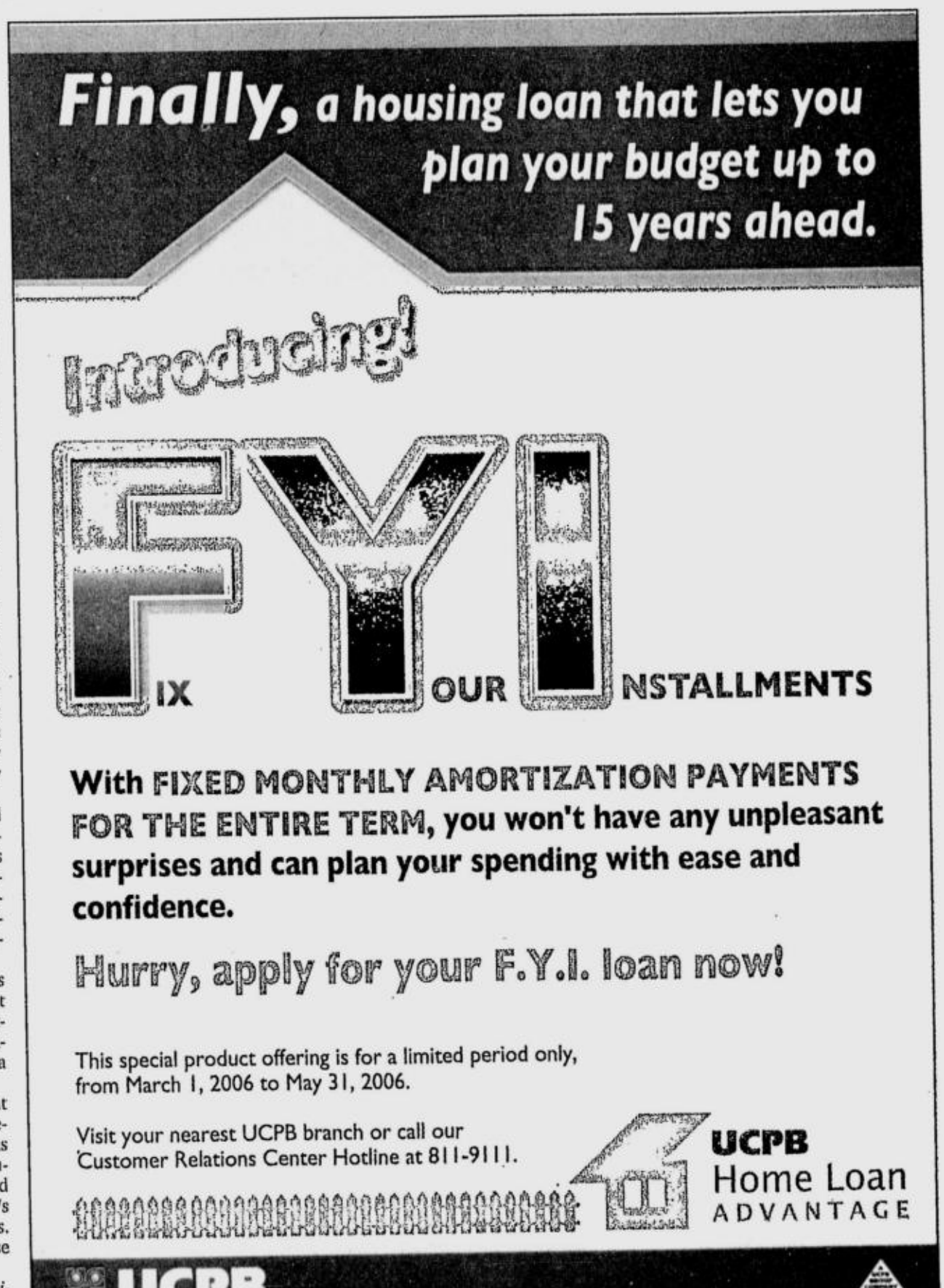
THE HOME GUARANTY CORP. (HGC), the government-owned corporation mandated by law to implement a credit guaranty system for housing, will hold its clients and partners night on April 20, 2006.

HGC was founded in 1950 as the Home Financing Commission, became The Home Financing Corp. in 1978. It was renamed Home Insurance and Guaranty Corp. in 1986 under Executive Order No. 90.

With the expiration of HGC's corporate life (50th year) in 2000 and the approval by Congress of its new charter under Republic Act No. 8763, it was renamed Home Guaranty Corp. last March 29, 2000.

HGC's life was extended by another 50 years and its authorized capital increased to P50 billion. To date, HGC's paid-up capital amounts to P6.75 billion from P2.5 billion before the effectivity of its new charter.

HGC, with the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), National Housing Authority (NHA), National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), comprise the Key Shelter Agencies (KSAs) whose primary objective is to implement the national shelter program of the government.



# New Zealand PM lauds Fonterra dairy brands maker

NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER HELen Elizabeth Clark has cited Fonterra as New Zealand's major exporter of dairy-based consumer and food branded products to the Philippines. Fonterra Brands, formerly New Zealand Milk Philippines, is the manufacturer of dairy brands Anchor, Anmum and Anlene.

"Fonterra continues to be New Zealand's biggest exporter of dairy products, which in total accounts for 90 percent of New Zealand's exports globally. This impressive achievement is the reason why the New Zealand government takes a close interest in Fonterra's businesses all over the world," stated the prime minister.

This was articulated by the prime minister during the cocktail reception held within her state visit to the Philippines. Present to welcome the prime minister were Fonterra executives led by Fonterra Brands Asean Hub general manager Allan Fitzsimmons and Fonterra Brands Philippines general manager Carlo Mendoza.

Also gracing the event were New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Rob Moore-Jones and Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand Bienvenido Tejano.

Through the years, Fonterra Brands has become a key player in the local dairy marketplace, continuously signifying its commitment to provide the nutritional needs of Filipinos through the company's strong brands.

Recently, the company changed its business name from New Zealand Milk as part of its vision to lead in dairy. Together with Fonterra Ingredients, Fonterra expects to maintain its dominance in the global dairy market, particularly in the Philippines, as well as continue being the world's most trusted name in health and nutrition.

The prime minister also reiterated the Philippines' importance as a major market for New Zealand's dairy products and has expressed her desire to further strengthen trade relations between the two countries.

The state visit to the Philippines was a first for the prime minister, who was here in the country to attend bilateral meetings in Bohol and the inter-faith dialogue in Cebu.

New Zealand's trade with the Philippines has already reached $315 million, the bulk of which is in the form of dairy products exported by Fonterra. At present, the Philippines is the 12th biggest export market of New Zealand.

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| ITB No. | Item / Description | Approved Budget | Source of Funds |
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| 2006-038 | 28 units ECCS Reader Plus Two (2) years Maintenance Services | P 6,720,000.00 | LBP Funds |
| 2006-076 | 20 units 6KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) | P 2,200,000.00 | LBP Funds |
| 2006-078 | 654 pcs. 14K Gold Ring (for 15 Years Service Awardees) | P 5,803,596.00 | LBP Funds |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on **May 3, 2006** at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per ITB.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **April 20, 2006 (ITB No. 2006-038 - 1:30 pm, ITB No. 2006-076 - 3:00 pm and ITB 2006-078 - 9:00 am)** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is the most advantageous to the Bank.

**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

(PDI - April 10 & 17, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
**FOOD TERMINAL, INCORPORATED**
East Service Road, Taguig City

***"Right Solution for a Business Location"***

**INVITATION FOR LEASE PROPOSALS**

The management of **FOOD TERMINAL, INCORPORATED** is accepting proposals for the lease of the following open / vacant lots within the FTI complex, strategically located near the SLEX and the airport and ideal for commercial / industrial operations:

| | Open / Vacant Lots | Area ($m^2$) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Lot 94-A | 4,783.00 |
| 2. | Lot 83 A & B | 3,773.00 |
| 3. | Lot 24 | 2,935.00 |
| 4. | Lot 37-B | 2,000.00 |
| 5. | Lot 93-B3 | 1,533.00 |
| 6. | Lot 61-A | 1,500.00 |
| 7. | Portion Lot 25 | 1,116.00 |
| 8. | Lot 21 | 1,000.00 |
| 9. | Lot 36 | 866.00 |
| 10. | Lot 12 | 800.00 |
| 11. | Lot 26 | 433.48 |
| 12. | Portion Lot 72 | 350.00 |
| 13. | Lot 71-B | 318.00 |
| 14. | Lot 39-A | 169.36 |

Interested parties may obtain additional information by calling Ms. Rosalinda P. Lopez,Senior Manager, MEMD at 838-3177.

*FTI – BAC Chairman*

(PDI – APRIL 17, 24; May 1 & 8, 2006)

## Credible communication

From page B2-7

right from the start.

Winston Churchill is a classic example of a leader who communicated bad news frankly and honestly.

In the midst of World War II, he let the British know they were in their darkest hour, their backs were up against the wall, and that democratic civilization rested upon their ability to win the war against Hitler. He never sugarcoated anything, and his sincerity instilled a grim determination in his people to sacrifice and persevere.

3) Never over-promise.

Do not make promises you cannot keep. Why do you think politicians have such a poor reputation? It's very simple. They promise the world and seldom deliver.

I am naturally optimistic, and as my children were growing up, I found over-promising to be a weakness of mine. I would talk with my kids about going to exciting places and doing fun activities, but then my schedule wouldn't allow me to follow through with my intentions.

I had to be very careful about what I said so that my children would be able to trust my words. Remember: A highly credible leader under-promises and over-delivers.

4) Do what you say you will do.

Follow up and follow through. Unfortunately, many in the corporate world politely make offers with no intent of carrying them out. After meetings and phone calls, follow up with a reminder e-mail outlining the action items discussed and agreements made.

How many times have you been in a business meeting that ended with warm handshakes but empty commitments? When you say you'll pass along a friend's contact information to a business associate, do it.

When you agree to meet with a potential partner, make it a point to schedule the meeting onto your calendar. Diligent follow through will set you apart from the crowd and communicate excellence to those you meet.

Credibility is the bond between the leader and the follower, and it forms the bedrock of why people will do what the leader asks of them. Even the best leaders may suffer a blow to their credibility.

This may be the result of a mistake or error in judgment. Or, circumstances may conspire against the leader, such as adverse market conditions or the failure of a supplier or partner.

As a leader, how can you restore damaged credibility? Let me give you three steps.

1) Acknowledge the mistake

When decisions turn out unexpectedly, the leader owes his or her followers an explanation. The egos of leaders can make them quick to assign blame or make excuses, but the problem compounds when a leader does not acknowledge mistakes. The acknowledgement should be on the front end, and should be voluntary. A forced acknowledgement ("Because I got caught, I'd like to acknowledge this") does nothing to reestablish trust.

2) Apologize

Admit what you did was wrong, accept responsibility, and say you are sorry. To do it may be painful for the moment, but it will shorten the agony and enable the leader to put the incident behind him or her.

3) Make amends

Find a way to make amends to the people you've wronged. Make restitution to those you've harmed. You may not be required to do so, but a trustworthy leader goes the extra mile to remedy strained relationships.

*For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!*

**DBP** Development Bank of the Philippines

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on April 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS.**

| CODE NO. | DESCRIPTION | AREA (sq.m.) | LOCATION | Minimum Bid |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REAL ESTATE** | | | | |
| **METRO MANILA,** | | | | |
| CWB-34 | Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 158163) | 3,000 | Asia World City, Bo. Tambo, Paranaque City | P 85,200,000.00 |
| CWB-35 | Residential lot (TCT Np.220220) w/ bldg. | 433 | No. 7895 Lawaan St San Antonio Village, Makati City | P 12,405,200.00 |
| CWB-33 | Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 434637) | 436 | Santan St., La Colina Subd., Bayanbayanan, Marikina City | P 1,177,200.00 |
| LGP-2 | Vacant residential lot (TCT No. C-346198) | 100 | No. 11, Block 3, Moonstreet , Villa Amor Dos Subdv., Zabarte, Caloocan City | P 350,000.00 |
| AM-RP-116 | Residential lot (TCT No. N-284589) w/ residential bldg. | 89 | Lot 16, Blk 23, Parkwood Hills Subd.,Brgy., Payatas, Quezon City | P 377,700.00 |
| AM-RT-117 | House & lot (TCT No. N-224211) | 60 | 9-B, Parkwood Hills Subd., Brgy., Payatas, Quezon City | P 253,600.00 |
| **BATANGAS** | | | | |
| AM-RP-118 | House & lot (TCT No. 157452) | 40 | Lot 21 Blk. 13, Transville Homes Subd., Brgy. Banay-Banay, Lipa City | P 206,700.00 |
| **BULACAN** | | | | |
| CWB-36 | 3-parcels of contiguous subdivision lots [TCT No. 409463(M),T-409464(M) T-409465(M)] w/ bldg. | 13,292 | Bo. Minuyan, Norzagaray, Bulacan | P 17,994,500.00 |
| CWB-37 | Agricultural lot [TCT-417780(M)] with bldgs. | 13,852 | Paradise Drive, San Jose Del Monte | P 7,146,800.00 |
| CWB-38 | Agro-residential lot [TCT-415955(M)] with bldgs. | 11,388 | Dulong Bayan, San Jose Del Monte | P 3,662,200.00 |
| CWB-39 | Residential/commercial lot (TCT-191823) with bldgs. & Imp. | 7,361 | Bo. Sampaloc, San Rafael | P 4,490,800.00 |
| LGP-1 | 2-parcels of residential/ industrial lots (TCT No. T-118054) with bldgs. & chattels | 1,686 | Tabang, Plaridel | P 3,933,020.00 |
| AM-MR-119 | House and lot (TCT No. T-448655) (TCT No. T-118054) with bldgs. & chattels | 42 | Lot 1 Blk. 2, GrottoVille Homes, Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte | P 175,700.00 |
| **CAGAYAN VALLEY** | | | | |
| COM-34 | Residential/commercial lot (TCT T-139050) with bldgs. & chattels | 2,187 | Aparri-Tuguegarao National Road, Bagumbayan, Lallo | P 5,700,000.00 |
| **CEBU** | | | | |
| AM-DE-071 | Interior rice land (TCT T-61845) without road-right-of-way | 1,035 | Poblacion Ward I, Minglanilla | P 271,500.00 |
| **LAGUNA** | | | | |
| CWB-40 | Residential lot (TCT No.313518) | 809 | Bohol St., Southpoint Subd., Phase I, Niyugan, Cabuyao | P 3,397,800.00 |
| CWB-41 | Residential lot (TCT No.375586) | 308 | Corner Tawi Tawi & Palawan Sts., Southpoint Subd., Phase I, Malitlit, Sta. Rosa | P 1,293,600.00 |
| **RIZAL** | | | | |
| CWB-42 | 2-parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 429681 & 429680) with bldgs. | 29,318 | Patiis Road, San Mateo | P 15,268,000.00 |
| AM-ML122 | 5-parcels of industrial lots (TCT Nos. 509723 - 509727) with 23 various bldgs. | 23,874 | Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta | P 309,461,900.00 |
| **TARLAC** | | | | |
| AM-FD-123 | House & lot (TCT No. T-399344) | 40 | Lot 9 Blk. 11 Worthy St. Capitol Villas Subd., Brgy. Carangian, Tarlac City | P 358,500.00 |
| **ZAMBALES** | | | | |
| CWB-43 | 4-parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 56973 & 56974) | 456,770 | Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz | P 913,500.00 |
| **(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")** | | | | |
| AM-JA-123 | 1-unit Offset Press Machine, HAMADA, 25" x 38" printing size, with standard accessories | | La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City | P 125,000.00 |
| AM-DE-124 | 3-units passenger buses, Hino Model, 67 seater, 6 wheeler; 1-unit passenger bus, 53-seater w/ Isuzu engine (all not operational) | | Gem Village, Maa, Davao City (Bus No. 5516 & 5518); Ma-a Road, Davao City across Emission Testing Center (Bus No. 5517); Km. 7, Lanang, Davao City (Bus No 5514). | P 151,400.00 |
| AM-JA-125 | 2-units hydraulic press, 250 tons capacity, 24 in. diameter ram with accessories | | No. 6 Banner St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City | P 525,000.00 |

**BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:**

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, (052) 480-7066/480-7081 and 818-9511 loc. 1423 for LP and 920-49-09 for CWB.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

(PDI – April 10 & 17, 2006)

Standard Form Number – 05
Revised on July 29, 2004
Contract Reference Number : 300-06-008

Republic of the Philippines
**PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON**
Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
Telephone No. 813-3353 & 221-3114 Telefax No. 813-2141
E-mail address: buk_provl_bac@yahoo.com.ph
**OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR**
Bids and Awards Committee

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of contract | Construction of Talakag Water Supply |
| Location | Talakag, Bukidnon |
| Brief Description | Const. of 1 unit Intake Box, Installation of G.I. uPVC pipes with a length of 28,781 meters, Construction of River Crossing Structure at Batang River and Construction of 1 unit Ground Reservoir (26,000.00 Gallons Capacity) and 2 units 26,000.00 Ground Reservoir and Construction of 2 units Ground Resrvoir with a capacity of 6,000.00 gallons each |
| Contract Reference Number | 300-06-008 |
| Approved Budget for the Contract | P 26,819,021.00 |
| Contract Duration | 365.00 Calendar Days including rainfall allowance |

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Advertisement | April 5-18, 2006 |
| 2. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility Forms | April 25, 2006 Until 9:00 A.M. only |
| 3. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check | April 28, 2006 |
| 4. Issuance of Bid Documents | May 2, 2006 |
| 5. Pre-Bid | May 9, 2006 |
| 6. Receipt and Opening of Bids | May 23, 2006; 9:00 A.M. |

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P200.00. Eligibility Form to the Provincial Treasurer Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Malaybalay City. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC Secretariat at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the Bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00.

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved:

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – April 11 & 17, 2006)

**Philippine Economic Zone Authority**
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www. peza.gov.ph

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING FIXTURES FOR PEZA BUILDING

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 2,279,984.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Fluorescent Lighting Fixtures for PEZA Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of labor and materials (new lighting fixtures including energy saving fluorescent lamp and electronic ballast), installation, commissioning, technical supervision, technical expertise, consumables and tools for 458 sets of Troffer type recess mounted fluorescent lighting fixtures. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and has at least ten (10) years experience in the manufacture and/or supply of the proposed product. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and/or purchased by interested Bidders from 07 to 21 April 2006 Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of PhP 2,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 27 April 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 10 May 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 10 May 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel No. 891-6144 / Telefax No. 551-0587
E-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – April 7 & 17, 2006)

# Proxy

From page B2-8

terms, the proxy is presumed to be authorized to vote whichever way he wants on the matters stated in the agenda of the meeting.

For all intents and purposes, the proxy is the stockholder personified whose voice has a right to be heard during the meeting.

However, if the stockholder issues a limited proxy form, that is, he indicates the agenda matter that his representative can participate in and how he should cast his vote, the proxy is obliged to follow those instructions.

Also, the period of effectivity of a proxy appointment is within the stockholder's control.

He can make it good only for a particular regular stockholders' meeting, or for all kinds of stockholders' meetings that may be held for, say, three consecutive years.

The maximum period that the law allows for a proxy designation is five years at any one time.

When that cut-off period is reached, the proxy appointment automatically lapses without the stockholder concerned having to do anything in that direction.

## Questions

Before signing a proxy form, especially if it was prepared by the corporation, the stockholder should examine carefully its contents.

If he does not understand any part of it, he should immediately get in touch with the contact person named in the proxy form.

He should not be scared to call and ask questions. This is the time when the corporate affairs staff of corporations are in their most pleasant and accommodating mood.

More so if the agenda of the meeting includes a major corporate action that requires the approval of the stockholders who own at least two-thirds of the company's stocks.

No proxy vote is too small to be ignored if management is scrounging for the required stockholders' clearance for certain corporate actions, or if it is engaged in a proxy fight in the election of directors.

*(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph*

# Credible communication

A LEADER'S WAY

*John C. Maxwell*

CREDIBILITY IS A LEADER'S CURrency. With it he or she is solvent; without it he or she is bankrupt.

Consider this metaphor: A leader with credibility has a pocketful of coins. As long as the pocket is full, the leader is believable, worthy of respect, and able to be trusted. Each time the leader breaks a promise or acts inconsistently with professed values, he or she must pay out some of the coins in their pocket.

When the coins are gone, so is the leader's credibility. No amount of persuasion or personal appeal will be able to buy it back. Once lost, respect and trust take years to regain.

Here are the four keys to establishing credibility in your leadership:

1) Speak the truth.

Be honest and upfront. Transparency breeds legitimacy—make it a priority to be open with financial statements, policies, and decision-making rationale.

When I began my pastorate in San Diego, I followed the founding pastor who was retiring after having led the congregation for 27 years. He had a tremendous amount of trust in his bank account with the people, and he deserved it because he was a phenomenal leader.

As a young man, coming in after the departure of such a well-respected and admired veteran, I knew my success hinged upon my ability to earn the trust of the church. So, one Sunday night a month, for several months, I would invite congregants to the church and spend a full hour answering any questions they had for me.

At the first Q&A session, 600 people came. My sincerity and openness in fielding questions disarmed them, and it laid a solid foundation of credibility from which I could operate.

2) Don't hide bad news.

With corporate scandals at Enron, WorldCom, and Arthur Andersen seared in our collective memories, we have entered an era in which transparency is demanded like never before. With multiple information channels available, bad news always becomes known, so it behooves management to be candid

CREDIBLE/ B2-6


## *GlobeQUEST WiZ Brings Superior Wireless Internet Connectivity to Mobile Professionals*

As more and more people bring their work outside the office, demand for wireless Internet connectivity also begin to grow rapidly. Such need has already spawned the creation of public access "hotspots" that

provide Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) access in locations as diverse as restaurants, coffee shops, airports, hotels, schools, offices, convention centers and malls.

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, thus, takes center stage in supplying the best network solution that will make strategic GlobeQUEST Wireless Internet Zones as workstations for mobile professionals, sales people and other field workers.

So far, GlobeQUEST has already partnered with a number of popular establishments nationwide, providing them with superior managed end-to-end solutions to ensure better flexibility, reliability and accessibility of their Wi-Fi service.

GlobeQUEST WiZ is a new and exciting wireless broadband Internet service using the IEEE 802.11b or Wi-Fi wireless networking standard to provide secure and reliable wireless connectivity to anyone with a Wi-Fi enabled laptop or PDA (personal digital assistant), and thus, allow them to access their email, play online games, surf the Net or even make a call.

A Wi-Fi network can be used to connect computers to each other, to the Internet, and even to wired networks which use 802.3 dubbed as the Ethernet. Wi-Fi networks operate in the unlicensed 2.4GHz and 5GHz radio bands with an 11Mbps (802.11b) or 54Mbps (802.11g) data rate or with products that contain both bands (dual band) so they can provide similar performance equivalent to the basic 10BaseT wired Ethernet networks.

GlobeQUEST's vision is to provide Wi-Fi facilities to major key establishments where people converge for business, as well as promote Wi-Fi as a strategic tool for education, local government projects, product advertisements, and foreign ventures, among others. Given this, GlobeQUEST has expanded to provide coverage not only in Metro Manila but to 13 provinces in the country, namely Cebu, Davao, Bohol, Bacolod, Tacloban, Pampanga, General Santos, Baguio, Olongapo, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, and Ormoc, making true its commitment to transform the Philippines into a Wi-Fi territory.

GlobeQUEST has also pioneered the "HotZones" which provide WiZ Wi-Fi access to clusters of establishments within the identified zone/sector such as industrial parks, commercial centers, residential subdivisions, mixed-use complex, business districts, and other business communities that require flexibility and productivity. GlobeQUEST WiZ HotZones complement a partnership with the GlobeQUEST WiZ HotSpots with certification from both the establishment and the property management.

GlobeQUEST WiZ can be experienced through Prepaid Plans in P100 (50 minutes), P400 (200 minutes) and P1,000 (500 minutes) denominations; or through GlobeQUEST's Universal Access Service, ranging from the lowest monthly plan of P350 for 10 hours to as high as P2,500 for unlimited use.

Likewise, by texting WIZ ON to 2333, Globe Handyphone postpaid subscribers can get their user IDs and password through SMS which can be used to log-in at any WIZ hotzone. WIZ usages will be charged to the subscriber's monthly bill at PhP2.00/minute. Also, GlobeQUEST has partnered with myAyala.com thereby allowing customers to purchase a GlobeQUEST WiZ account online through a credit card.

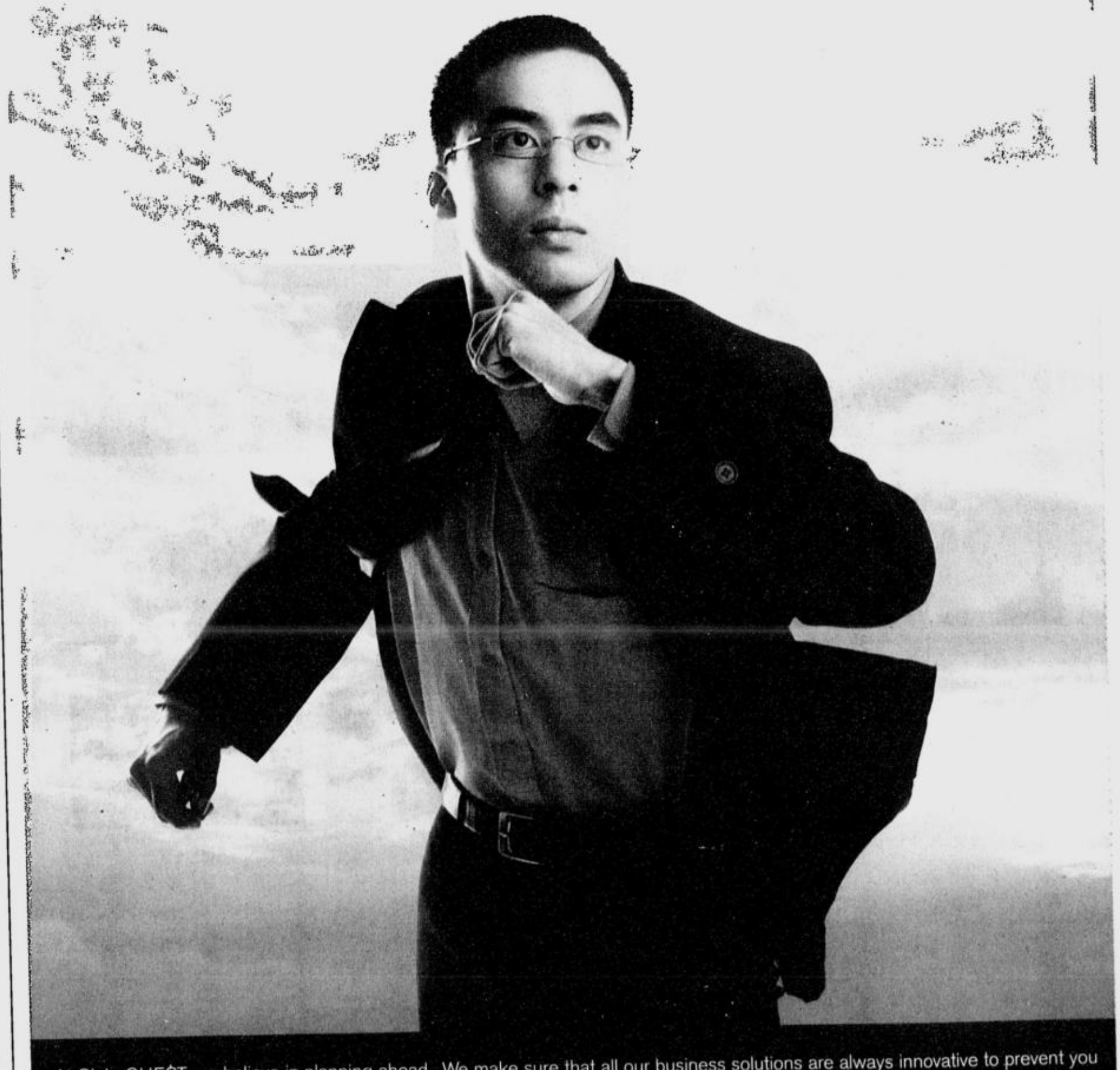
At the same time, GlobeQUEST WiZ allows Wi-Fi Roaming-in for customers of Pacific Internet, Worldpass, BOINGO Wireless, iPass, and Deutsche Telekom to access wireless broadband Internet

For more information log on to www.wiz.globequest.com.ph or call the GlobeQUEST Hotline 79-QUEST.

ADVT



OUR SOLUTIONS LET YOU THINK AHEAD AND MOVE AHEAD.



At GlobeQUEST, we believe in planning ahead. We make sure that all our business solutions are always innovative to prevent you from being limited by existing technology. In fact, we were the first to offer International Private Line Circuits (IPLCs) using Fiber Optic technology, allowing you to communicate with your offices abroad at lightning speed. GlobeQUEST was also the first to bring High-Speed Broadband Internet in the country and offer wireless fidelity (WiFi) services nationwide through WiZ (Wireless Internet Zone) giving you access to the Internet outside your home and office. Through BAX (Broadband Access Services), we allow ultra high speed connectivity up to Gigabits of capacity across the country. With Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network (IP-VPN), you can access corporate data from different offices securely over the Internet. We evolve our products to match your needs, equipping you with everything you need to move forward. We are built for change. If your goal is to move ahead, call us.

Products offered: Private Networks, Broadband Internet, Enterprise Mobility Solutions, Corporate Voice, Broadband Access (BAX), Data Centres
GlobeQUEST is the corporate brand of Innove Communications. Innove Communications is a 100% subsidiary of Globe Telecom.
Contact Us: 79-QUEST (79-78378), marketing@globequest.com.ph, www.globequest.com.ph

Globe QUEST
The new pace of business

BUSINESSMonday

# Proxy

**Corporate Securities Info**

*Raul J. Palabrica*

THIS IS ABOUT THE TIME OF THE year when stock corporations hold their annual meeting of stockholders.

For stockholders of blue chip corporations, the yearly ritual is considered an opportunity to meet in person the business executives to whom they entrusted their investments.

The likes of San Miguel, Ayala, PLDT and other companies of similar size spare no costs in preparing their annual reports and making these meetings interesting enough to attract media coverage.

Some stockholders who have a lot of time in their hands look forward to these gatherings for "sightseeing" reasons (especially when they are held in classy venues) and to partake of the freebies usually distributed after the meeting.

The agenda of stockholders' meeting usually consists of the report of the president on last year's operation, the election of new directors, and the appointment of an external auditor.

If major corporate decisions have to be made, i.e., amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or declaration of stock dividends, the meeting is the best time to get the required stockholders approval.

## Requirements

Ideally, the stockholders should be personally present in these gatherings so they can participate in the discussion and cast their vote on the items in the agenda.

In case they are unable to attend the meeting for any reason, the Corporation Code allows them to designate a representative or proxy who can act on their behalf.

The law does not prescribe a standard form or template for the appointment of a proxy. Corporations are free to provide in their by-laws the form they want to use for this purpose.

Regardless of the form that may be agreed upon, three requirements must be complied with, namely: it should be in writing, is signed by the stockholder, and filed with the corporate secretary before the scheduled meeting.

Once these minimum requirements are met, the by-laws can, for example, require the submission of the proxy form at least one week before the meeting to give the corporate secretary sufficient time to verify its authenticity.

In addition, the by-laws may provide that if the proxy is questioned, its acceptance shall be held in abeyance until the affected stockholder is able to clear up things.

It is not reasonable, however, for the by-laws to impose the condition that the proxy form should bear the signature of two witnesses who are known to the corporate secretary.

Neither can the by-laws limit the choice of proxy to persons whose names are included in a list submitted by management.

## Scope of proxy

The extent of a proxy's authority to act on behalf of the stockholder he represents depends on the manner the proxy form is written.

If it is couched in general

PROXY/ B2-7


EXPORTBANK

Deposito Mo, Milyon ang Panalo! Raffle Promo part 2

Grand Raffle Draw 1st Prize winner Park Jin Gu (4th from left) with Exportbank senior officers and guests.

Grand Raffle Draw 2nd Prize winner from Luzon Apolonia de Leon (4th from left) with Exportbank senior officers and guests.

Grand Raffle Draw 3rd Prize winner from Luzon Cresenciana Victoria and Evelyn Bulanadi (4th and 5th from left) with Exportbank senior officers.

Grand Raffle Draw 2nd Prize winner from Metro Manila Franny dela Cruz (4th from left) with Exportbank senior officers.

Mrs. Luz Yap (3rd from left) received the prize in behalf of his son, Grand Raffle Draw 3rd Prize winner from Metro Manila Richard Yap, with Exportbank senior officers.

Grand Raffle Draw Consolation Prize winner from Metro Manila Linda Silverio (4th from left) with Exportbank senior officers and guests.

3rd Preliminary Draw 1st Prize winner Evelyn Araojo (4th from left) with Exportbank senior officers and guests.

3rd Preliminary Draw 2nd Prize winner from Metro Manila Nimfa Perua (3rd from left) with Exportbank senior officers.

3rd Preliminary Draw 3rd Prize winner from Metro Manila Paulo Samson (3rd from left) with Exportbank senior officers.

Standing from left to right: Paulo Samson, Luz Yap, Linda Silverio, Apolonia de Leon, Park Jin Gu, Franny dela Cruz, Nimfa Perua, Cresenciana Victoria, Evelyn Bulanadi and Evelyn Araojo.

Standing from left to right: Paulo Samson, Linda Silverio, Franny dela Cruz, Nimfa Perua, Cresenciana Victoria and Evelyn Bulanadi. Seated from left to right: Luz Yap, Apolonia de Leon, Park Jin Gu and Evelyn Araojo

List of winners:

3rd Preliminary Draw: 1st Prize Evelyn Araojo, Valenzuela City; 2nd Prize (Metro Manila) Nimfa Perua, Quezon City; 3rd Prize (Metro Manila) Paulo Samson, Quezon City; 2nd Prize (Vismin) Ronald Dayday, Cebu City; 3rd Prize (Vismin) Melicia Ponce, Cebu City; 2nd Prize (Luzon) Leo Yao, Catherine Iglesias and Ma. Cecil Mendoza, Laguna City; 3rd Prize (Luzon) New Moderno Trading, Nueva Ecija City

Consolation Prize: Alexander & Marcia Wy, Nueva Ecija City; Alfredo Hiquiana, Pangasinan City; Felipe Velasco ITF Randolph & Carlo Velasco, Pangasinan City; Milagros Loring, Manuel Loring and Gregorio Loring, Iloilo City; The Gilded Expressions, Davao City; Danilo Daen, Jr., Cebu City; Raymund Philip Roldan and Ramon Roldan, Pasig City; Rosemarie Cristobal, Las Piñas City; Kristy Ann Abalos and Hernando Abalos, Navotas City; Grace Pamarajos, Manila City

Grand Raffle Draw: 1st Prize Park Jin Gu, Angeles City; 2nd Prize (Metro Manila) Franny dela Cruz, Bulacan City; 3rd Prize (Metro Manila) Richard Yap, San Juan City; 2nd Prize (Vismin) JCA Realty, Cagayan de Oro City; 3rd Prize (Vismin) Alona Quinones, Cebu City; 2nd Prize (Luzon) Apolonia de Leon, Nueva Ecija City; 3rd Prize (Luzon) Cresenciana Victoria and Evelyn Bulanadi, Nueva Ecija City

Consolation Prize: Tomas Aguas and Ludivinia Aguas, Nueva Ecija City; T.A.V.A. Handicrafts, Laguna City; Lois Uy, Baguio City; Cesar Ladasma, Iloilo City; ABS Export International, Iloilo City; Colwyn & Michelle Gaviola, Cebu City; Luisito Navoa, Parañaque City; Linda Silverio, San Juan City; Teodoro Katigbak, Makati City; Jona Alexia Gelberg, Makati City

**Congratulations to all the winners!**

Exportbank held the 3rd Preliminary and Grand Raffle Draw of the "Deposito Mo P1-Million ang Panalo" Raffle promo Part 2 at the Exportbank Lower Lobby Hall, Exportbank Plaza last March 15, 2006. Cash prizes were given away to a total of 34 lucky winning depositors from Luzon, Metro Manila and Vismin areas under the supervision of Mr. Ferdinand Manfoste, Assistant Regional Director for Department of Trade and Industry, National Capital Region.

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# Exportbank Gives Away Cash Prizes

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Each with an inspiring story to tell: A young man from Metro Manila opened a regular checking account in Greenhills Branch for the payment of his housing loan amortization. An ex-private tutor opened a dollar savings account to receive the monthly remittance of some members of her family living abroad. A caregiver employed as a nanny in Canada opened a dollar savings account in Chino Roces Branch to ensure a stable future. A young graduate managing the family's business. A foreign national who established a business in his place while assisting foreign students who study in his community. What started as a simple deposit account turned out to be an auspicious change in their lives.

The "Deposito Mo, P1-Milyon ang Panalo" Raffle Promo Part 2 was capped with the awarding of cash prizes on April 5, 2006 witnessed by senior bank officials. Exportbank gave away close to P3.0 million to 34 depositors from various provinces nationwide during the 3rd Preliminary Draw and Grand Raffle Draw. Mr. Park Jin Gu of Angeles, Pampanga won the P1-Million grand prize.

Exportbank first launched the "Deposito Mo, P1-Million ang Panalo" Raffle Promo in 2004 to encourage the public to establish a relationship with the bank and to express appreciation to its loyal depositors. The deposit campaign proved to be a success and was soon followed-up with the "Deposito Mo, P1-Million ang Panalo" Raffle Promo Part 2.

Export and Industry Bank is proud of the trust built with its depositors and reaffirms its commitment to provide good value for the products and services it offers to its customers.

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2006

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# LIFESTYLE

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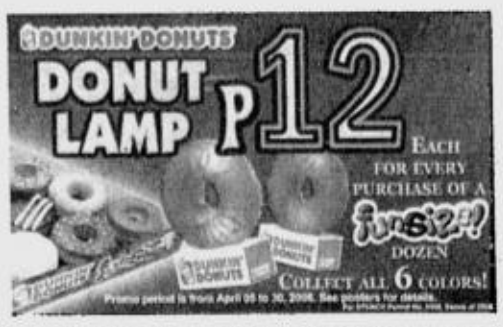




# Australian musical on Imelda Marcos previewed

## David Byrne of Talking Heads fame says about the subject of the musical he wrote: 'She comes with her own soundtrack'

DANA Diaz-Tutaan as Imelda Marcos, with composer David Byrne serving as the musical's narrator

By Maida C. Pineda
*Contributor*

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA—Shopping for shoes in Adelaide recently, one brand caught my eye. It was called Imelda M, named after who else but our famous former First Lady with a shoe fetish.

It was cheap and made in China, but its clever name made it stand out among its competitors. My American friend Michelle chided me to buy it. But why would I want to be in her shoes?

In this southern Australian state of one million people, its residents seem constantly preoccupied with some festival or another. There are countless Food and Wine Festivals, Womadelaide (World Music Festival), and the annual Clipsal Motor Race.

Recently, the city was agog with the Adelaide Festival of the Arts. This dates back to 1960, and is held every other year. This year, it was held on March 3-19. Lovers of the arts are treated to a plethora of concerts, theater, dance, film and visual-arts events.

Surveying the dizzying list of entertainment options, the former First Lady's name again haunted me. "Imelda," the compelling and provocative documentary by Ramona Diaz, was one of the five films featured in the Festival on Film. I failed to see this documentary in 2003, when it was first shown in Manila. Hence, I grabbed this opportunity to see it.

As my friend and I indulged in a bag of potato chips, a woman bolted straight into my direction.

"Excuse me, aren't you Imelda?", she asked. Turning to my Japanese-American friend from Hawaii, she continued, "Weren't you in the play, too?"

Our faces were blank. When we realized we were mistaken for stars of the musical "Here Lies Love," about Imelda and her maid, we immediately shook our heads.

The Australian fan's excitement quickly evaporated into thin air. We then took the cue to join the crowd of less than a hundred people walking into Mercury Cinema on this Sunday afternoon.

As we entered, the usher took our tickets. He mumbled something like "You're here to watch the shoes?" And as the lights shut out, and the film began, the opening lines again pertained to shoes, "She had enough shoes for eight years..."

Watching the documentary was enlightening. It was not the opulence that shocked me, rather it was Imelda's unique mindset on beauty and love. She sincerely believed she was serving the country by being beautiful.

With much conviction, she drew her theories using images like hearts, reversed hearts, and even a Pacman. She acted like a teacher making perfect sense. To this student, it was pure nonsense.

Viewing the documentary in the intimate setting of the cinema made it even more fas-

AUSTRALIAN/ C2

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NICCOLO Manahan, Cathy Azanza, Joy Virata, and Cocoy Laurel in Rep's "Man of La Mancha"

Come spend a summer in the theater. You just might want to stay

THE VIRILITY crisis causes middle-aged George (Miguel Faustmann) to seek diversion in fun-loving Jane (Ana Bitong) in the riotous sex comedy "Two and Two Make Sex."

REP WORKSHOP

# Summer lovin'

**By Ralph Perez**
*Contributor*

AS SOON AS WE WENT OFFSTAGE AFTER our last curtain call for "Man of La Mancha" December of last year, I hastily crammed my belongings into my bag.

It was my first big musical and it was closing. I tried to work up a sadness that wouldn't have been out of place.

I quit my old job to do this. I didn't know what I'd be doing next. But I wanted to jump up and down, do cartwheels on the street, and sing at the top of my lungs.

All my life, this was what I had always wanted to do. To go on stage, feel the lights hit my face, be somebody other than myself.

And I did just that. The applause was still ringing in my ear, not exactly for me, but for a wonderful show I was part of. A show whose thesis of following one's dreams even at the cost of coming off like a fool was my own life's theme.

It was then that I asked myself, "What took you so long?"

## Hard work

Rewind to nine months earlier—April 2005. After screwing up enough courage, I dragged myself to the Repertory Philippines office at the end of Pasong Tamo Extension to enroll in its musical theater summer workshop.

I was late. I came in, in the middle of an exercise called Alexander technique being taught by Joy Virata.

That week finished with an assignment: to learn a song and sing it with the piano next week, in front of theater legend Baby Barredo.

What ensued was a flurry of music sheet swapping and photocopying among us participants. I quietly prepared my own.

I chose "Look to the Rainbow" from "Finian's Rainbow." I worked hard on it, and when we finally had to sing in front of Tita Baby, she pointed out three things: one, I chose a girl's song; two, it's a good song; three, I didn't do so bad.

Everyone should have that chance. To be told by someone you deeply respect that, with enough hard work, you might just be who you want to be. She did that to all of us. Not one of us went away disappointed with ourselves. There was only excitement that we had a lot to work on and to work for.

For our recital, our class chose to put on the musical "Guys and Dolls." Rehearsals. Here you'd find the wisdom in that seemingly worthless saying, "You learn by doing." You can only learn it with other actors.

Show time came sooner than we would have had it. Somehow we pulled it off and, we would like to believe, not so badly.

When auditions for Rep's big musical "Man of La Mancha" came around, my classmates from the workshop organized rehearsal meetings for the songs we were to learn for the auditions. I was so nervous during the auditions, but Tita Baby must have seen some hope in my performance and took me in, anyway.

It was a deliriously exciting time for me during the "La Mancha" rehearsals. I was in the company of actors whom I only used to read about: Menchu Lauchengco Yulo, Michael Williams, Audie Gemora, Cocoy Laurel, and a host of others.

On top of that was a director who had a clear vision of what she wanted, who knew how to get what she wanted, and who played her actors like an accomplished conductor with a first-rate orchestra.

I am so proud to have been a part of that production, which will tour Asia early next year.

## Opening doors

Two weeks ago, I bumped into Jon, a workshop classmate, who was on his way to meet up with our other classmates to learn music for the coming "Aladdin Jr." auditions. We worked on our songs over and over and went home armed with well-intended, helpful criticisms of each other's performances.

Then came the day of the auditions. I was surprised at how my knees didn't give away under me when I took my place behind the line where we were supposed to stand. Even more when I opened my mouth with confidence and sang. My classmates did as well, too. We all got in.

The Rep summer workshop not only opened doors for us actors but it also opened doors into ourselves.

Already, I have two friends I've convinced to attend this summer's workshop with me. I'd like to share with them the wonderful world of theater. At least, that part of it called Repertory Philippines.

Come spend a summer in the theater. You just might want to stay.

*Repertory Philippines is accepting enrollees to its 2006 Summer Workshop program at Karrivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati. Open to kids (minimum age requirement 5 years old), pre-teens, teens and adults. Workshop starts on April 3 (Monday to Friday) and will end within the last two weeks of May. Fee is P6,000. Call 8870710 or visit the Rep office for more details. Slots are on a first-come, first-served basis.*

REP mainstays Cocoy Laurel, Niccolo Manahan, Robbie Guevara, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams, Joy Virata, Miguel Faustmann and Cathy Azanza

# *Light comedy at Rep*

CLARE IS MARRIED TO George who is starting an affair with Jane who lives with Nick. Clare has a friend, Ruth, who meets George's friend Jack, who is Jane's father.

Although it sounds like it, "Two and Two Make Sex" is not a new TV weekly sitcom but the next Repertory Philippines production opening on April 21 at Rep Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1.

Richard Harris and Leslie Darbon have written a play about modern relationships and marriage infidelity in typical British drawing-room comedy style, using hastily thought-up lies, ridiculous cover-ups and mistaken identity.

The dialogue sparkles with British wit and humor and the play proceeds at breakneck speed with split-second timed entrances and exits.

Clare is played by Liesl Batucan, Rep's all-around actress who comes from successes in "7 ng Umaga," where she played a 40-year-old spinster, and the hit musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," which included an unforgettable monologue of the betrayed wife.

George is played by Miguel Faustmann, to whom playing a stiff-upper-lip Brit in a comedy has become second nature. Ana Bitong makes a delicious and aggressive Jane. The jaunty Nick is played by Arnel Carrion.

Juno Henares, who entertained children as the Empress in RCT production of "The Emperor's New Clothes" last year, returns to the regular Rep season after a 15-year absence to play Ruth, a hard-boiled "Dear Abby" columnist.

Rounding out the cast is Bonggoy Manahan, who plays the dapper Jack.

Joy Virata is in charge of creating organized mayhem as the show's director. She is assisted by Marijke Amador.

Miguel Faustmann has created a two-level set which shows two different living spaces, and Martin Esteva has designed the lights.

"Two and Two Make Sex" is the last of Repertory Philippines' 69th regular season of plays. Tickets at P200, P300 and P500 are available at the Rep office and Tickeworld. Discounted tickets for groups of five and above are also available in Rep's "Bring Your Barkada" special promotion.

A limited number of free tickets are available for the preview performance on April 20, 8 p.m., for teachers, heads of schools, and heads of organizations who may wish to sample a Rep play for possible sponsorship or group activity for this or future productions.

Interested persons are asked to call the Rep office giving their name, position and organization.

"Two and Two Make Sex" opens on April 21, 8 p.m., and continues for three weekends until May 7, with Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:30 p.m.

Call 8870710 or 8919999 (Ticketworld).

TWENTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD Nick (Arnel Carrion) woos 40-something-year-old and very much married Clare (Liesl Batucan).

# Australian musical on Imelda Marcos previewed

From page C1

cinating. The images of high society lifestyle shown in contrast to the poverty of "homes along the *riles*" left a tangible shock and discomfort in the audience.

No words were exchanged. But at the end of the show, some members of the audience shared their thoughts with me.

Bernadette and Lee from Adelaide found the documentary absolutely fascinating. "The weaving of the corruption, the view of how she was helping people and how she was so detached from it all... The theatrics of the politics was the most amazing thing I found." They were struck by Imelda's unusual persona.

"There was a narcissistic view about herself. She said she blocked out what she didn't like. I think she spent her life doing that."

For Helen, another resident of Adelaide, "I was astonished that the Filipinos welcomed Imelda back after all the years of martial rule and the murder of Benigno. I would say Imelda appeared to believe she had done nothing wrong..."

On a personal note, she felt ashamed of her ambivalence: "The worst thing for me was that I knew and didn't care when all those things were happening. It was feeling like a spectator on something, when something should have been done."

## Musical on Imelda

Two days later, on March 14, I watched the last day of "Here Lies Love," A song cycle, it ran from March 9-14.

David Byrne, musician and founder of the rock band Talking Heads, is responsible for the concept, lyrics and music.

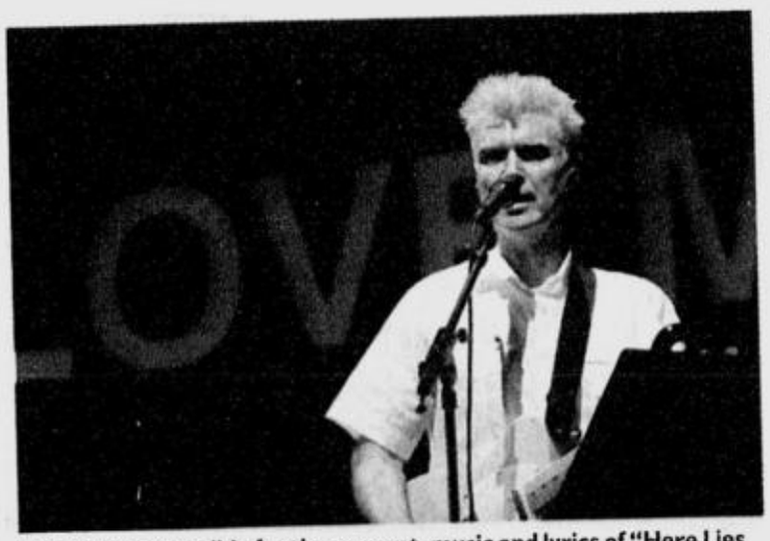
The world premiere of this theatrical music event was exclusive to Adelaide. Byrne's fascination is not with Imelda's abundance of shoes and her opulent lifestyle, but, rather what motivates people in power to behave as they do. He appeared at the start of the show, clutching his guitar and explaining this.

Byrne found inspiration for this production when he read about Imelda's NY townhouse, how she frequented Studio 54 in New York, and built her own disco in Malacañang Palace.

"She is someone in power who comes with her own soundtrack," Byrne said.

Truly, Imelda's life makes good copy. Byrne deliberately takes a different take on the former First Lady. He never mentions her shoes or even shows any footage on a single high-heel pump.

Clad in a plain white shirt, Byrne acted as the casual narrator and the ensemble parts of Ninoy and Ferdinand . Marcos. Dana Diaz-Tutaan sang the Imelda vocals whilst clad in the signature *terno* with butterfly sleeves and high-coiffed hair.



BYRNE is responsible for the concept, music and lyrics of "Here Lies Love," the Imelda musical.

Byrne was accompanied by "Estrella Campos," Imelda's devoted maid from childhood, to accompany her on stage. A Thai actress, Ganda Suthivarakom, played Estrella.

A live band playing the disco groove by Byrne and Fat Boy Slim accompanied the two singers onstage. A large screen flashed videos of the young Imelda, the proclamation of martial law, Filipino films, and other footage, interspersed with text and visuals designed by Peter Norman.

I sat along with 200 people in the limited reserved seating at the rear of the venue. Another hundred people milled around the stage with two bars serving beer, wine and other alcoholic beverage.

The venue mimicked a disco like Studio 54, with a mirror ball and fluorescent neon lamps. From my vantage point, I could see the audience bopping their heads to the catchy music of Byrne with their eyes intently engaged in the story told by the visuals and the two Asian singers.

I enjoyed Byrne's casual story-telling style. His interest in understanding the complexity of Imelda and her behavior was tangible.

Using Estrella Campos, Imelda's devoted housekeeper and *yaya* as the second character on stage was a fresh take. It provided a useful tool in illustrating the powerful and the powerless.

Byrne's knowledge of Imelda is vast. I was even shocked to learn that Ninoy and Imelda had dated.

## Filipina as Filipina

As the lone Filipina in the audience, I was proud to see Dana play Imelda, the lead role. Finally a Filipina actress was portraying a Filipina role, instead of pretending to be a Vietnamese character.

She retained the Filipino accent as she sang beautifully. It was only later that I learned this 30-year-old Filipina singer and actress left Manila when she was only six months old to move to Papua New Guinea. She then moved to Australia when she was four, until finally relocating to New York in 1999.

Dana has impressive acting and singing credentials, including "Miss Saigon" in Australia in 1996. When asked what was it like to be in Imelda's shoes, she replied "really bizarre." She explained there is a point of conflict understanding her character traits while still crediting the good things she had done.

Dana's mother from La Union coaches her daughter on Philippine history. The Thai actress playing Estrella, Suthivarakom, beautifully executed the Filipino accent. Perhaps, it helps that she grew up alongside many Pinoys in LA.

The show was two hours long. It was engaging, but it seemed to pack too much information in. It was nearing 10:30 in the evening and we had only covered Imelda's life until martial law.

Byrne proceeded to Imelda feeling betrayed as she left Malacañang during the Edsa Revolution. Then the show abruptly ended on high with a resounding rendition of the song "Here Lies Love." These are the three words Imelda wishes inscribed on her tombstone. The tune was catchy, leaving me singing it over and over the next day.

I may not agree with Imelda's view on the world, love and beauty, but she definitely succeeded in putting the Philippines on the map.

I never want to be in her shoes. And I strongly believe there are more noble ways for Filipinas to make their mark in this world.

JULIA Abueva and Jake Macapagal in New Voice Company's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love"

# NVC's "Aspects of Love" Singapore-bound

THE NEW VOICE COMPANY, ONE of Asia's most cutting-edge and pioneering theater companies, brings its recent critically acclaimed theatrical success to Singapore—Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love."

One of the world's most romantic musicals, "Aspects of Love" had a sold-out run at the Republic of Malate in Manila last November.

NVC's daring and provocative production of this musical will run at the Drama Centre, Singapore, April 28-May 6. The production is generously sponsored by Jetstar, the official airline of NVC's "Aspects of Love," and Royal Plaza on Scotts, the production's official residence in Singapore.

"Aspects of Love" tells the story of the lives and loves of five central characters: a handsome young man Alex (Jake Macapagal); a beautiful actress (Monique Wilson); an elderly aristocrat (Leo Rialp); an Italian sculptress (Jenny Jamera); and a 15-year-old girl (Nikki Ventosa) with troubled desire and tangled emotions flowering against the backdrop of the South of France, Italy and Paris.

Webber's representative from his Really Useful Group office in Australia, Kerry Comerford, graced the Manila opening and had only praises for the production.

"I think it's great. I loved it," she said, adding she was "visibly pleased with the local production's high quality."

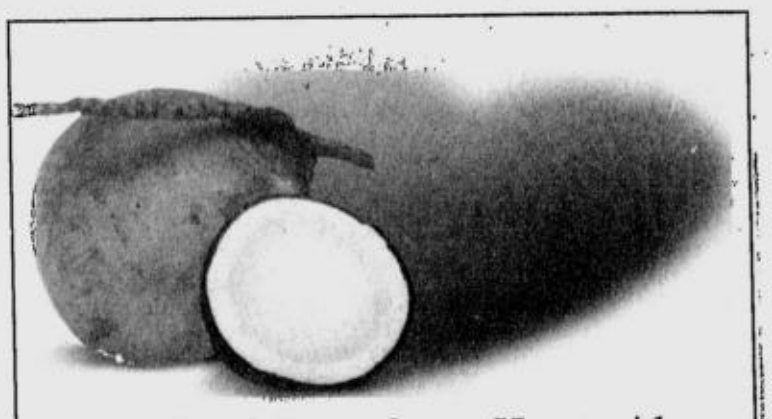
"Aspects of Love" stars Wilson, Macapagal, Rialp, Jamera, Rito Asilo and Ventosa, with Julia Abueva, Nelson Caruncho, Lily Chu, Mika Margolles, Amiel Mendoza, Dandy Ramos, Gina Samson, Rona Lou San Pedro, Gabbi Buencamino and Topper Fabregas.

Acting coach Dee Cannon will be flying in from London to do artistic supervision on the show, upon the invitation of NVC artistic director Wilson. Cannon is one of the head acting tutors at Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (Rada) in London. She has also worked extensively as an acting coach to many West End and Hollywood actors, and is Wilson's acting coach in London.

The musical is directed by Wilson, with choreography by Dexter Santos, light design by Martin Esteva, technical direction by Jamie Wilson, sound design by Julius Aguilar and stage management by Lisa Santos. Asilo is acting coach, with Mary Hammond as private vocal coach to Wilson, Angela Padilla as dance captain, Caruncho as company vocal coach, and Veronica Kallos and Michelle Nicolasora on piano.

For ticket information in Singapore, contact Sistic at www.sistic.com.sg, or through Sistic hotline (65) 63485555 or (65) 90928579. Or call New Voice Company Manila office at 8966695, 8965497 or 8990630; e-mail nvc@pldtdsl.net or visit www.newvoicecompany.com.

MONIQUE Wilson and Macapagal



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## PLDT myDSL Biz renders Pangasinan schools Internet-ready

The country's leading broadband, PLDT myDSL in partnership with Everything Online, Inc. launched the Internet Café Plus project on March 17 at the Alaminos National High School (ANHS) in Alaminos City, Pangasinan, home to the breathtaking Hundred Islands.

Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza with PLDT Pangasinan Business Zone Head Gerry Soriano, Blue Aldridge, PLDT myDSL Product Manager and Macky Samaco, President of Everything Online signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the partnerships to connect 41 public elementary and high schools to the Internet. Also present at the signing were ANHS Principal Aurora Reinoso and former Mayor Leon Rivera of the Alaminos local school board.

ANHS is the first public school to pilot the Internet Café Plus platform. High velocity broadband Internet PLDT myDSL provides the Internet access while Everything Online supplies the hardware and software integration for Internet Café Plus.

### Kaalaman ng Bayan: Strategic ICT Program of Alaminos City

PLDT myDSL and Everything Online's Internet Café Plus Program was initiated to support "Kaalaman ng Bayan...Kinabukasang Alaminian 2015", the City of Alaminos' Strategic ICT Program. The project aims to provide all public elementary and high schools in Alaminos with computers and quality broadband Internet access.

The Internet Café Plus platform shall bring Internet connectivity to 41 elementary and public high schools, allowing students easy access to a world of information including research materials and educational aids.

Everything Online's Internet Café Plus package also includes value-added services like international calling via voice over internet protocol (or VOIP), electronic load & PIN retailing system, and targeted software for specific industries like e-learning, e-review & enrollment management system for schools & patient records management system for hospitals.

With the introduction of the project, PLDT myDSL, Everything Online and local government units like Alaminos City can now work hand in hand in bringing the Internet and relevant communication technology to the grassroots. The project also gives LGU's access to demand-driven technologies and creates applications that could support e-governance and e-commerce initiatives.

### Investment Forum

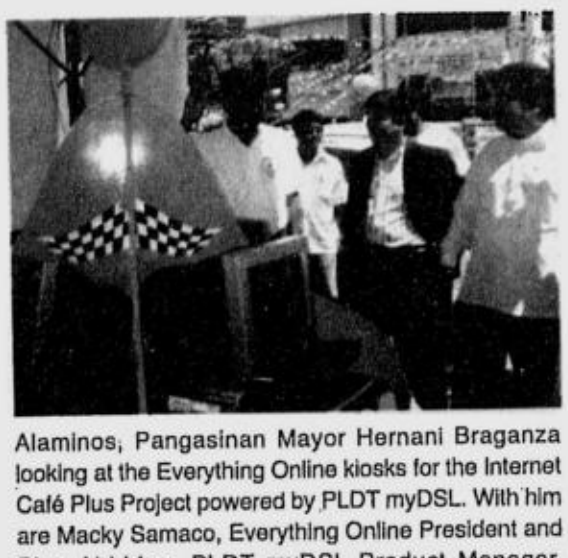
PLDT myDSL and Everything Online were also present at the Alaminos City Investment Forum attended by 200 balikbayans and guests during the 2006 Hundred Islands Global Homecoming held at Vista de las Islas Resort. At the Investment Forum, PLDT's commitment to upgrade services in Pangasinan in 2006 through the projected increase of 3,800 phone lines was expressed by Mr. Aldridge. On the other hand, Mr. Samaco of Everything Online encouraged the Filipino balikbayans to invest in the ICT programs for the youth.

Alaminos Mayor Braganza expressed his utmost support and commitment to the partnerships and acknowledged that technology upgrade in education remains a priority program under his leadership. "Our city and our people deserve world class standards, most especially in technology and education. Partnering with PLDT myDSL and Everything Online is the best way to start us on this path," said Mayor Braganza.

Everything Online's Internet Café Plus powered by PLDT myDSL is now open for franchise for as low as P35,000. For details and inquiries on the Internet Café Plus franchising packages visit www.everythingonline.ph or text EOL to 2256 for SMART and Talk 'N Text users.

PLDT myDSL is the country's leading high velocity broadband Internet service providing dedicated, unlimited and uninterrupted access to the web. It dominates the DSL market with more than 105,000 myDSL subscribers nationwide, commanding a 70% stronghold on small and medium business clients. PLDT myDSL also commands a huge share of the Internet café and network gaming market with its advanced Internet infrastructure and integrated networking facilities.

To know more about PLDT myDSL and other PLDT products and services, log on to www.mypad.net, call 171 or visit your nearest PLDT Business Office for details.



Alaminos, Pangasinan Mayor Hernani Braganza looking at the Everything Online kiosks for the Internet Café Plus Project powered by PLDT myDSL. With him are Macky Samaco, Everything Online President and Blue Aldridge, PLDT myDSL Product Manager.

Mayor Hernani Braganza (second from right) during the launch of "Kaalaman ng Bayan" Alaminos City, Pangasinan Strategic ICT program at the Alaminos National High School, using the Everything Online platform powered by PLDT myDSL. Looking on are (L-R) Adette Purto, Edge Technologies, Eduardo Mejos of Everything Online, Macky Samaco, Everything Online President and Blue Aldrigde, PLDT myDSL Product Manager.

Mayor Hernani Braganza of Alaminos City Pangasinan signing a Memorandum of Understanding with PLDT myDSL Product Manager Blue Aldridge and Everything Online President Macky Samaco with former Alaminos Mayor Leon Rivera in a commitment to wire the city's public elementary and high schools using the Internet Café Plus project as the platform. Looking on are representatives of Everything Online, Alaminos National High School and the Philippine Tourism Authority.

# Two one-act plays at Merk's

**RIA FERRO and Archie Adamos star in "Sabina."**

ON APRIL 21-22, MERK'S BAR AND bistro at 3/L, Greenbelt 3, Makati, hosts the country's first ever theater-dinner event in celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the Arena Theater/Philippine Drama Company since its founding in 1953.

The Naty Crame Rogers Philippine Drama Company is mounting the event, fresh from its revival of the one-act play "Sabina," which was produced in its original 1953 production design at the Sala Theater actor's laboratory.

Once again, Naty Crame Rogers, CCP Centennial Awardee for Theater, directs "Sabina," the one-act tragedy considered to be National Artist Severino Montano's finest work.

To be presented back to back with "Sabina" is the comedy "Why Women Wash the Dishes," written by Filomena N. Colendrina, arranged for chamber theater by Nick Agudo and staged as story-drama by Crame Rogers.

Essaying the title role as Sabina is Ria Ferro, with Archie Adamos as Mr. George and June Hebrew as Antero.

"Why Women Wash the Dishes" is presented in story-drama form, a hybrid theater form that uses prose fiction without its adaptations into the traditional form of a play, therefore saving its literary form from being cut up or "mutilated."

Playing the lead roles are Teri Tolosa as Ka Maldang, Rico del Rosario as Ka Ugong, and Lala Castillo as the Narrator.

Tickets for this limited engagement are at P1,500 each, including a sumptuous dinner with cuisine from Bistro Remedios.

All guests are requested to be seated by 6:30 p.m. Curtain rises at 7 p.m.

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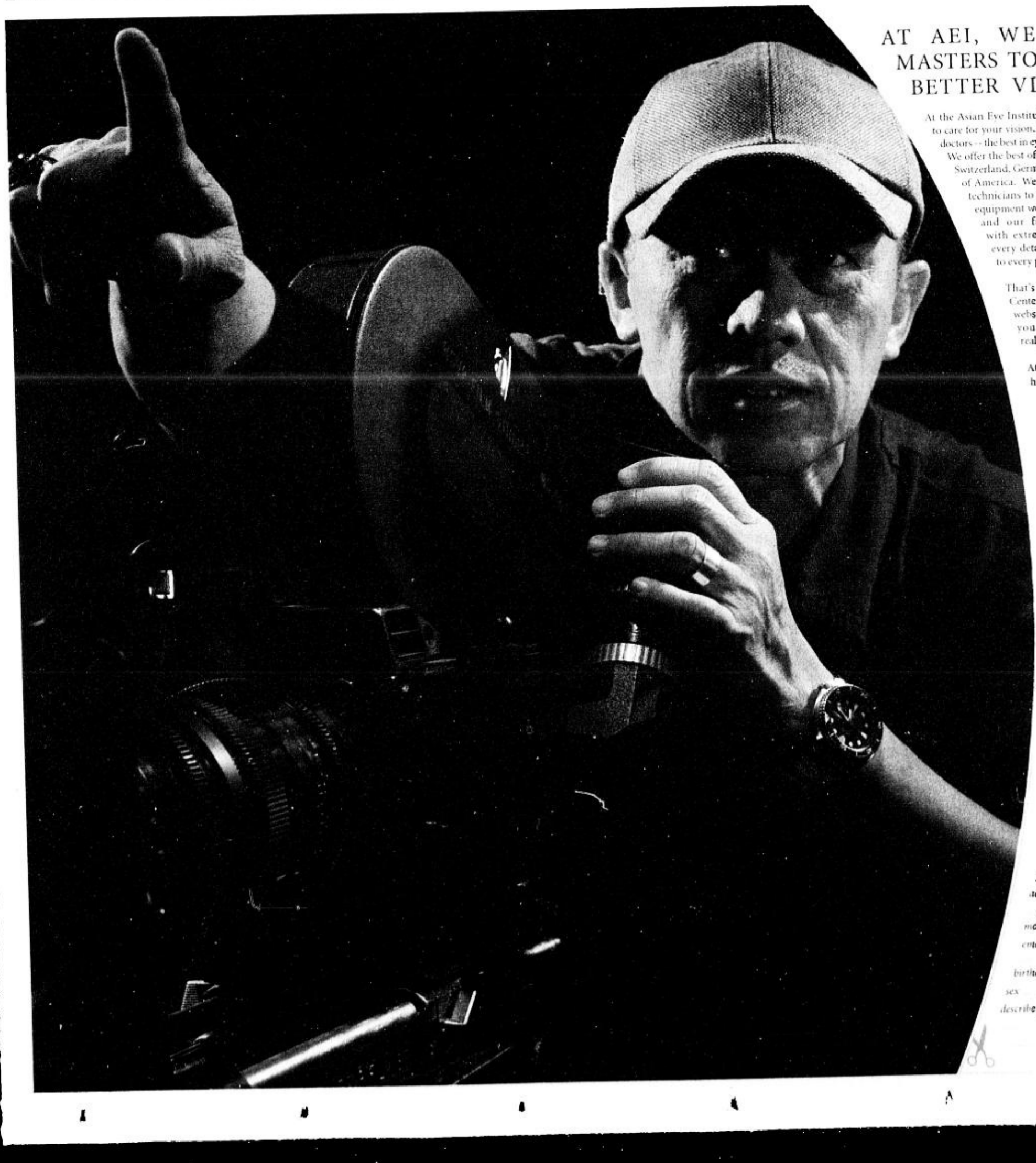

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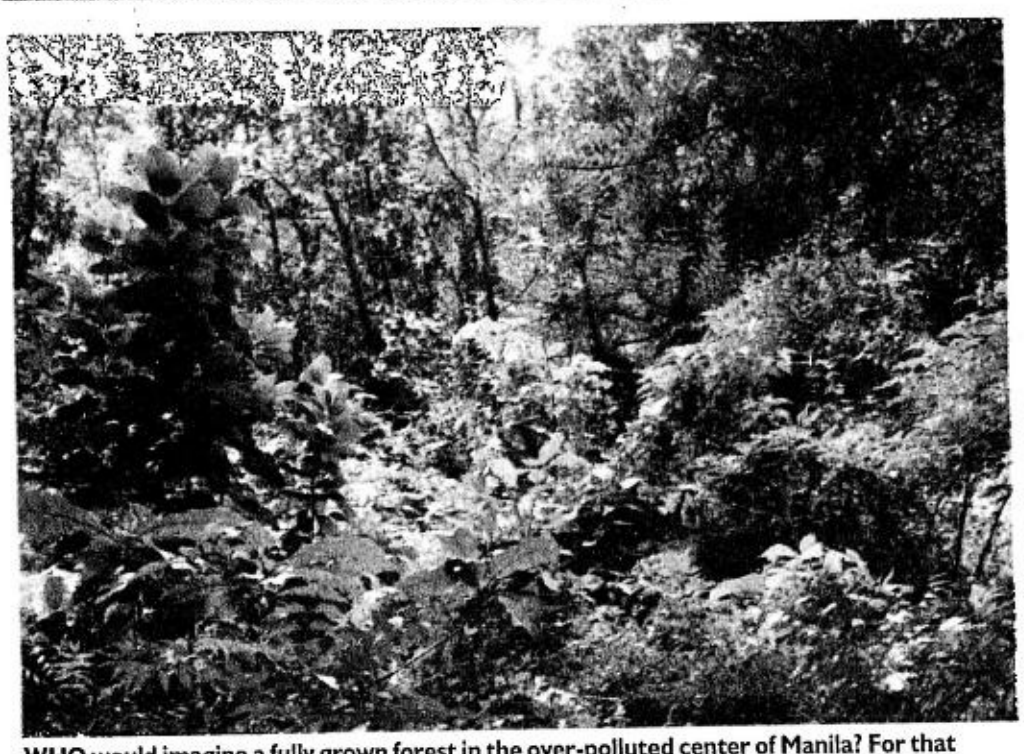

WHO would imagine a fully grown forest in the over-polluted center of Manila? For that reason alone, Arroceros Forest Park should not be removed.

EARTH DAY 2006

## Our country's natural heritage is fast disappearing

**PRIDE OF PLACE**

*Augusto F. Villalon*

EARTH DAY NETWORK PHILIPPINES invites everyone to be part of the Earth Day celebrations planned for April 22 and to participate in the environmental events scheduled throughout this month.

Just like past Earth Day celebrations, millions of people will once again take action in their communities, drawing attention to the need to protect our children and the future generation from the effects of environmental damage.

As the International Earth Day secretariat noted, "Earth Day is a chance for ordinary people to stand together in huge numbers to show that they care and to create the momentum to make global change possible."

Environmental protection is urgent especially for us in the Philippines. Look at the state of our environment today:

1. Seventy percent of our total land area in 1900 was forested. Now only 24 percent, or 7.2 million hectares, is forested. There are only 800,000 hectares of virgin forest.

2. Scientists find that our country has the richest marine biodiversity in the world. But

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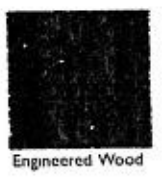
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HERITAGE Festival director Bambi Harper

NCAA commissioner Trixie Angeles

THE FESTIVAL pays tribute to the zarzuela musical genre.

# Hurrah for heritage!

By Antonio C. Hila
*Contributor*
Photos by Rudy Esperas

THE CELEBRATION OF MAY AS National Heritage Month promises to be a treasure trove showcasing the myriad facets of the country's rich cultural heritage in songs, dances, visual arts, theater and other artistic-cultural forms.

The Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc. (FHFI), organizer of the event, disclosed this in a press conference at the Inter-Continental Hotel hosted by Ana Marie "Bambi" Harper, festival director.

Lawyer and National Commssion for Culture and the Arts commissioner Trixie Angeles, speaking on behalf of NCCA chair Ambeth Ocampo, underscores the significance of the celebration as the people's means of "rediscovering our greatness," to give the country its much-deserved love, which certainly is not a "lost Eden."

Harper, who gave a Power Point presentation of the activities lined up for the month, says the celebration is an effective vehicle for those who still have to be introduced to the country's vast cultural heritage.

For those who are already acquainted with Filipino heritage the celebration promises to be a dynamic package for enjoyment. She says it is "not right to say that Filipinos don't have their own culture when, in fact, we do. Knowing nothing, or next to nothing, does not mean having nothing."

FHFI president Armita B. Rufino calls on the public to help in the preservation of the nation's cultural heritage, stressing an important reminder that "taking part in our heritage does not begin and end" in the celebration as it "is something that we need to do every day."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared May of every year as National Heritage Month through Proclamation No. 439 on August 11, 2003, in recognition of the need to create among the people a consciousness, respect and love for Filipino cultural history.

The celebration kicks off on April 30 at Paoay, Ilocos Norte, with the *tamboreros* and *pumipitos* marching in Diana Around the Town. On May 1, a concert featuring world-renowned pianist Cecile B. Licad will be held at the patio of San Agustin Church, a Unesco World Heritage Site.

## Toast to the zarzuela

This year's celebration is dubbed "Viva Zarzuela!" as it pays homage to the particular music-theater genre known as *sarswela*, the Pinoy-style operetta which saw its inception in 1878 and had become a form of entertainment for both the rural and urban audiences.

Two *sarswelas* are lined-up for staging, the Ilonggo "Ang Gugma ni Dansoy kag Rosing" and the Kapampangan "Ing Managpe."

The first will be staged on May 11 at the RCBC Theater; May 13 in Marikina City; May 16 in Makati City; May 18 at the AFP Theater; May 21 at the CCP; and May 29 in Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

"Ing Managpe" will be revived and presented by the Center for Kapampangan Studies of Holy Angels University on the open-air stage of the university's main building. An excerpt of this *sarswela* was performed, drawing much applause from the appreciative media members who covered the press launch. A dance ritual to drive away evil spirits was also performed by the AlunAlun Dance Circle.

Peter de Guzman, winner of the Wall of Remembrance design contest sponsored jointly by the National Historical Institute and FHFI, explained his winning entry, "Bagumbayan." The Wall will memorialize the martyrs of Bagumbayan and other Filipino heroes of the 1896 Revolution.

Tours are being organized to see historic sites and ancestral houses. On May 6, Lakbay Bulacan takes off to some historic towns in the province, such as the Biak-na-Bato National Park and ancestral houses in San Miguel, and Sevilla's Sweets; the 400-year-old Angat Church and Museum, as well as the embroidery community at Pandi.

The Laguna tour on May 13, organized by the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, includes a trip to ancestral houses in Pila, the Nineveh Contemporary Art Gallery in Sta. Cruz, Danny Dalena's house in Pakil, and a walking tour of Paete, including a visit to Angelo Baldemor's studio.

Philippine cuisine will grace dining feasts at three hotels: Hotel InterContinental which will serve Quezon's fare on May 4; New World Hotel, with Region 1 Ilocano delights; and Mandarin Oriental, with Ilonggo cuisine May 8-19. Rajo Laurel's creations and Sen. Loren Legarda's collection of gowns in native textiles would also be on view on the 8th at Mandarin.

## Art and culture greats

On May 7, the FHFI will honor some of the Filipino arts and culture greats at the CCP front lawn. On the same day, *sagalas*, wearing *baro't saya* designed by members of the Fashion Designers of the Philippines Association of the Philippines, headed by veteran fashion designer Ben Farrales, will parade from Rajah Sulayman Park to the Bastion de San Diego in Intramuros.

An exhibit on National Artists will be mounted at the Rockwell Center May 10-17. On the 18th, at Hagonoy, Bulacan, a *balagtasan* will be held as tribute to Francisco Baltazar, the king of Filipino Poetry.

At Rajah Sulayman, May 18, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry will sponsor a cultural fare highlighting Chinese culture consisting of music and dances, martial arts, fortunetelling, calligraphy, food booths, pottery and porcelain.

José Mari Chan joins the festivity as he serenades audiences with his well-loved compositions. Filipino-Chinese paintings will also be displayed at the FFCCCI building in Binondo on May 12.

On May 17, First Day stamps featuring Philippine *faros* (lighthouses) immortalized in Manuel Noche's book, "Lonely Sentinels of the Sea," will be launched and sold by the Philippine Postal Corporation at Ayala Museum. There will be a photo exhibit of the 26 colonial lighthouses.

The Shoe Center of Marikina will showcase Moda Marikina, a fashion show featuring Philippine costumes and shoes, May 20.

## Exhibits

Exhibits galore are lined up for the entire month of May. The Noon at Ngayon Photo Exhibit on May 9 will highlight heritage sites then and now at Filipinas Heritage Library.

The centuries-old ceiling paintings of Raymundo Francia, the Philippines' Michelangelo, in Loboc Church will astound visitors on May 13. Secret mixtures concocted by Francia have helped these masterpieces to withstand the test of time. However, they may turn to waste if not properly cared for.

Father Alger Angela of the Diocese of Tagbilaran says the church ceiling exhibit attests to the Filipino's inherent talent. It will also create awareness for conservation, which in turn will support the diocese's projects to document and preserve their treasures.

On May 17-19, Unesco's 31st International Theater Institute World Congress and FHFI will display photos of national landmarks in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

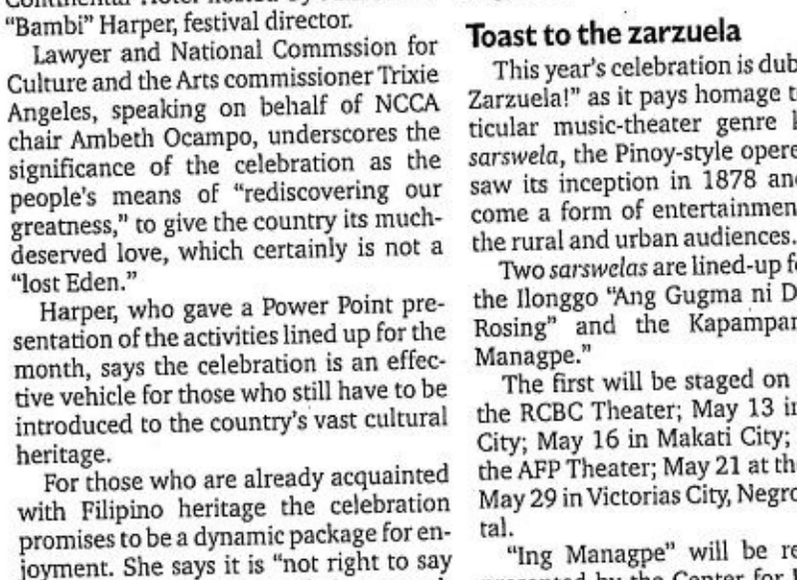
In Legazpi City, a photo exhibit of 26 churches declared as heritage sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Unesco), will take place.

Other exhibits include the Mindanao Indigenous Exhibit in Davao, May 19; Bangsamoro Photo Exhibit in Cotabato, May 20; Lighthouse Exhibit at Robinson's Galleria, May 23; and the Letras y Figuras Painting Exhibit, May 25.

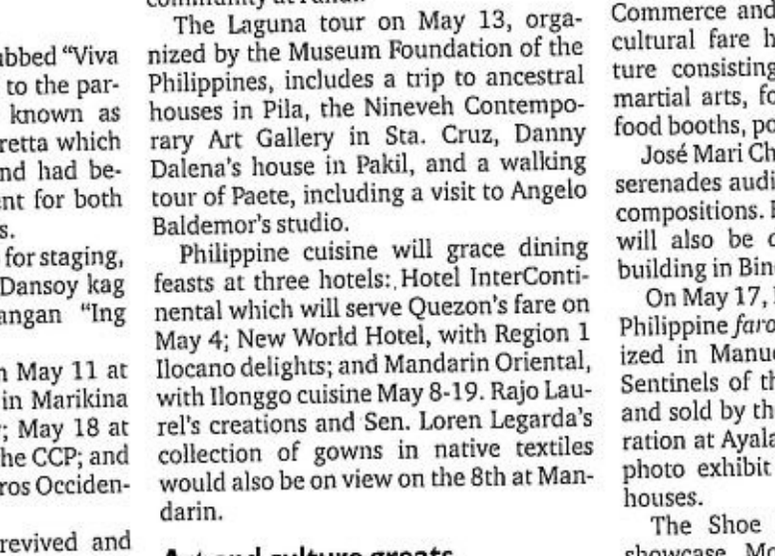
"Bagumbayan," the winning piece in last year's Wall of Remembrance contest, will be unveiled by the National Historical Institute on Flag Day, May 28. Artist Peter de Guzman's opus is a tribute to countless unknown Katipuneros who participated in the 1896 revolution.

For details, visit FHFI website at http://filheritagefest.fateback.com, or call their office at 8925865.

# Get ready for May, National Heritage Month



HAVE THERE been any measures taken to reverse the damage we Manila residents have done to the bay? What is the environmental state of Manila Bay today?



NOW we know that the Amorsolo-esque image of the rustic doing her laundry on a brook is not environment-friendly.

# Our country's natural heritage is fast disappearing

From page D1

only less than 5 percent of our coral reefs is in excellent condition today.

3. Thirty percent to 50 percent of our sea grasses and over 50 percent of our mangroves are lost, negatively affecting the productivity of our coastal areas; today, fish catch is down from 10 kilos per fishing effort to only about 2 kilos.

4. The Philippines is second to the lowest in terms of freshwater availability in Southeast Asia (second only to Thailand as of 2000); we are now experiencing saline water intrusion is some coastal areas.

5. Total suspended particulates (TSP) in the air in most of our urban centers exceed the standards adversely affecting public health; World Bank estimates in the year 2000 of the economic cost of air pollution for Metro Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao is about $400 million per year.

6. Sewage, industrial effluents, agricultural and urban run-off pollute much of Philippine waters (coast, rivers, lakes, creeks); World Bank estimated the adverse impacts of water pollution on public health, fisheries and tourism to be about P67 billion per year.

7. Solid waste is mounting and improperly dumped in our creeks, rivers, lakes, seas or any vacant lot aggravating the flooding problem, polluting our surface and ground water, and serving as breeding grounds for rats, flies, cockroaches and other disease-carrying vermin.

The more frequent occurrence of landslides and flash floods tells us that the time to act is now. We can no longer allow the continued destruction of our environment, or we will destroy our very own life support systems.

The Earth Day celebrations this year focuses on the need to act locally to solve the global problem of climate change. The focus is on finding solutions at all levels—individual, as well as community, local and national government.

While each day should be Earth Day, we use Earth Day 2006 celebration to raise greater public awareness not just of environmental problems but, more importantly, of what can be done by each and every individual to protect our fragile environment.

Earth Day Network Philippines encourages individuals and groups all over the country to organize events in support of Earth Day activities in local areas.

Activities include:

- Tree-planting in urban centers, mountains, mangroves, river banks, parks
- Recycling events to recover and reuse waste materials and/or prevent further waste
- Events promoting less use of fossil fuel such as carpooling, Takbo o Lakad para sa Kalikasan, Bike for Clean Air
- Promote the use of alternative cleaner fuels (biodiesel, auto LPG, ethanol, CNG)
- Beach and sea cleanup (including *scuba-surero* by divers)
- Cleanup of creeks, rivers, lake, streets, parks
- Discussions/seminars/workshops on environmental topics
- Free emission testing
- Art contest, poster-making, song-writing, essay-writing contests and the like
- Environmental concerts

Please let Earth Day Network Philippines know what you plan for Earth Day 2006. E-mail bggozun@hotmail.com or the Secretariat of the Earth Day Network Philippines sagip_pasig@yahoo.com, or fax to 9296626 loc. 216.

Please remember that all Earth Day events and actions are important, no matter how big or small they are! Every action counts!

Working together, we will send a powerful message to leaders and citizens all over the world that millions of us care and are doing something right now to create a safer and more sustainable world for our children and our shared future.

Together we have the power to make a difference. So do something for the environment.

*Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com*

# *UST hosts TV and media arts workshop*

THE EDUCATIONAL Technology Center (Ed Tech Center) of the University of Santo Tomas will offer a summer workshop on Basic TV Production, Media Arts and Digital Audio Recording, April 18-May 31, at Ed Tech Center, 2/F, UST Central Library Building.

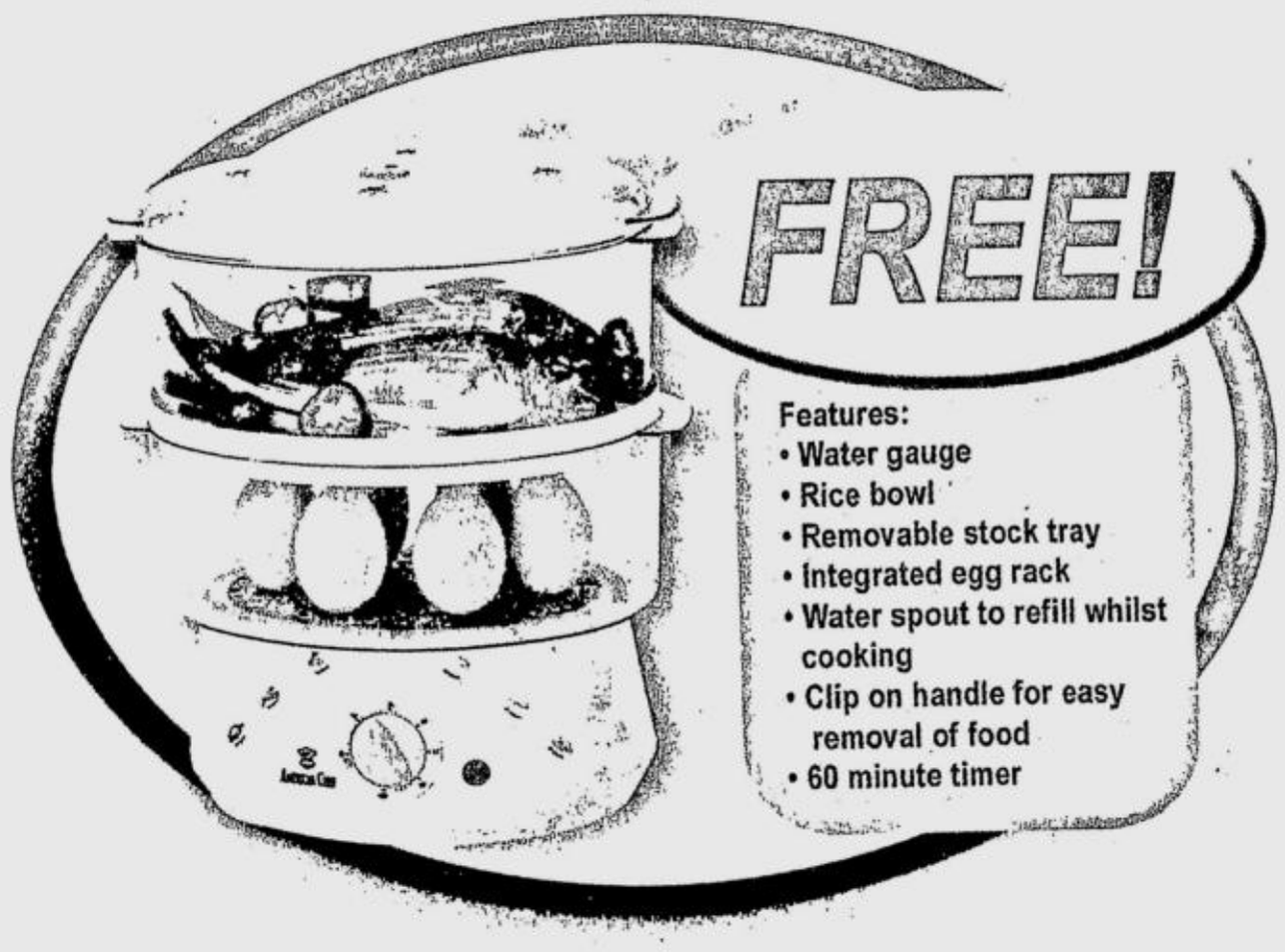
The workshop, which is called "Multimedia Jam 2006," is open to all. Schedule and registration rates are Basic TV Production (April 18- May 5, P12,000), Digital Media Arts (April 19-April 27, P2,500 per course, six courses), Digital Audio Production Workshop (May 15-May 31, P8,000).

The six courses under the Digital Media Arts Workshop are Photo Retouching using Adobe Photoshop CS2; Drawing and Artwork creation using Adobe Illustrator CS2; Basic Desktop Publishing using Adobe InDesign CS2; Basic Web Development HTML and Adobe GoLive; Effective slide show presentation using MS PowerPoint, basic digital video-editing using Adobe Premiere Pro 1.5; and Basic Digital Animation for video using Adobe AfterEffects 6.5.

Call 7409701 to 04, 4061611, loc. 8332/8339.

**FILIPINO MASTERS IN TAGAYTAY**
Tagaytay Highlands, the golf resort and residential development site, is hosting an exhibit at its La Belle Brasserie (2/F, Highlands Golf Clubhouse). The works from Amorsolo to Manansala have certificates of authentication. Call (046) 4132033.

# Steam Cuisine




## Get a free Steam Cuisine when you buy any Hitachi Window Type Air Conditioner!

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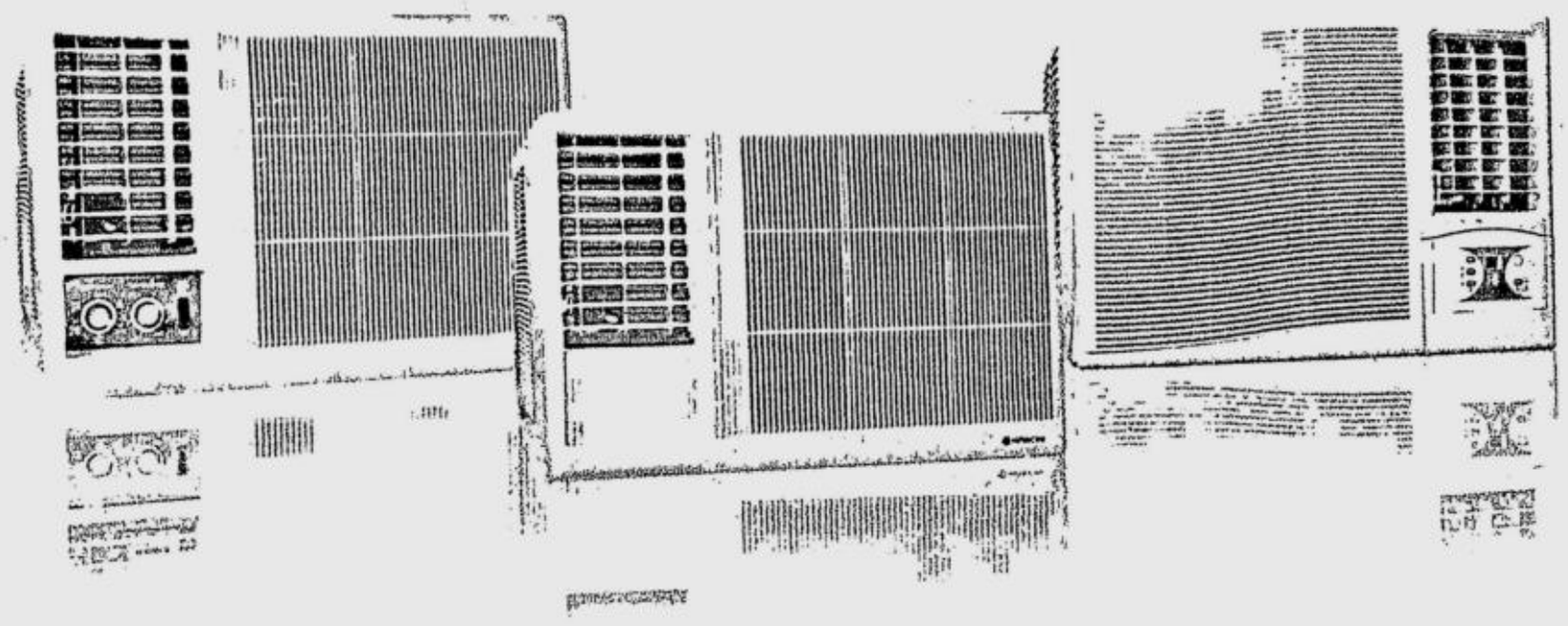
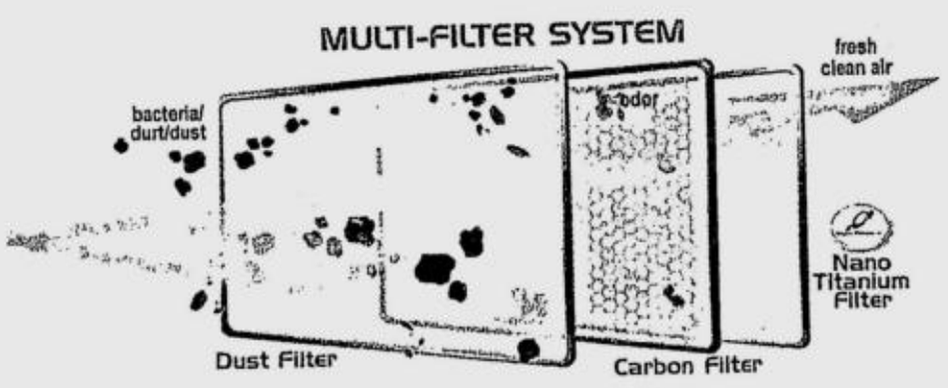


Hitachi's NANO Titanium effectively destroys

**99.9%**

of harmful bacteria and rids the air of odors, resulting in clean and healthy air.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No 1431 Series of 2006

Nano Titanium

### Hitachi Brings Nanotechnology Into Your Very Homes

Imagine how clean everything would be if our appliances could trap bacteria the size of a nanometer (1/1,000,000mm – that's just 10x larger than an atom, about the width of DNA, and 100 times smaller than a human cell). If we had machines that could do so, then keeping our precious environment clean would be a breeze! Well today, you need not imagine anymore!

Thanks to Hitachi's intensive Japanese technology research, nanotechnology is now brought to our very homes. Living up to its reputation of inspiring the next, Hitachi is the first in the world to install nanotechnology in home appliances. With Nano Titanium filter technology, harmful microorganisms the size of a nanometer can easily be spotted and eliminated! Which marvelous appliances can do this incredible task, you ask? Read through to find out!

**Breathe clean, fresh air**

Hitachi Air Conditioners' air purifying system is installed with multi-level filters that trap the minutest of bacteria. In the frontline of defense is the dust filter with a high-tech ceramic material that stops bacterial growth, dissolves ammonia gas, and traps dirt and dust particles in the air. The air then passes through a second sanitization layer which is the carbon filter. In here, unpleasant odors are eliminated, enhancing the freshness of the air. Then finally, the air is further purified through Hitachi's breakthrough Nano Titanium filter, wherein the smallest of bacteria are ultimately trapped. This advanced multi-level filter system kills 99.9% of harmful microorganisms, viruses, and irritating allergens. Truly, with Hitachi Air Conditioners, you can breathe easy with the assurance that you inhale only healthy clean, fresh and odor-free air.

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**Wear clean and fresh-smelling clothes**

The wonders of Nano Titanium filter technology doesn't stop with air conditioners and refrigerators only. Even Hitachi Washing Machines are equipped with this groundbreaking technology. During the spinning/drying process, the Nano Titanium filter removes microbes and odor-causing molecules from the external air flowing into the wash basket through the Air Jet Dry system. In here, the tiniest bacteria are caught and odor-causing molecules are extinguished. The result? Your wash loads are cleaner and fresh-smelling!

**Experience the good life with nanotechnology**

Now that you know how the state-of-the-art technology of Hitachi makes life easier and more enjoyable, it is time for you to come and get a taste of the good life! Bring the benefits of advanced nanotechnology into your very homes through superb Hitachi products.

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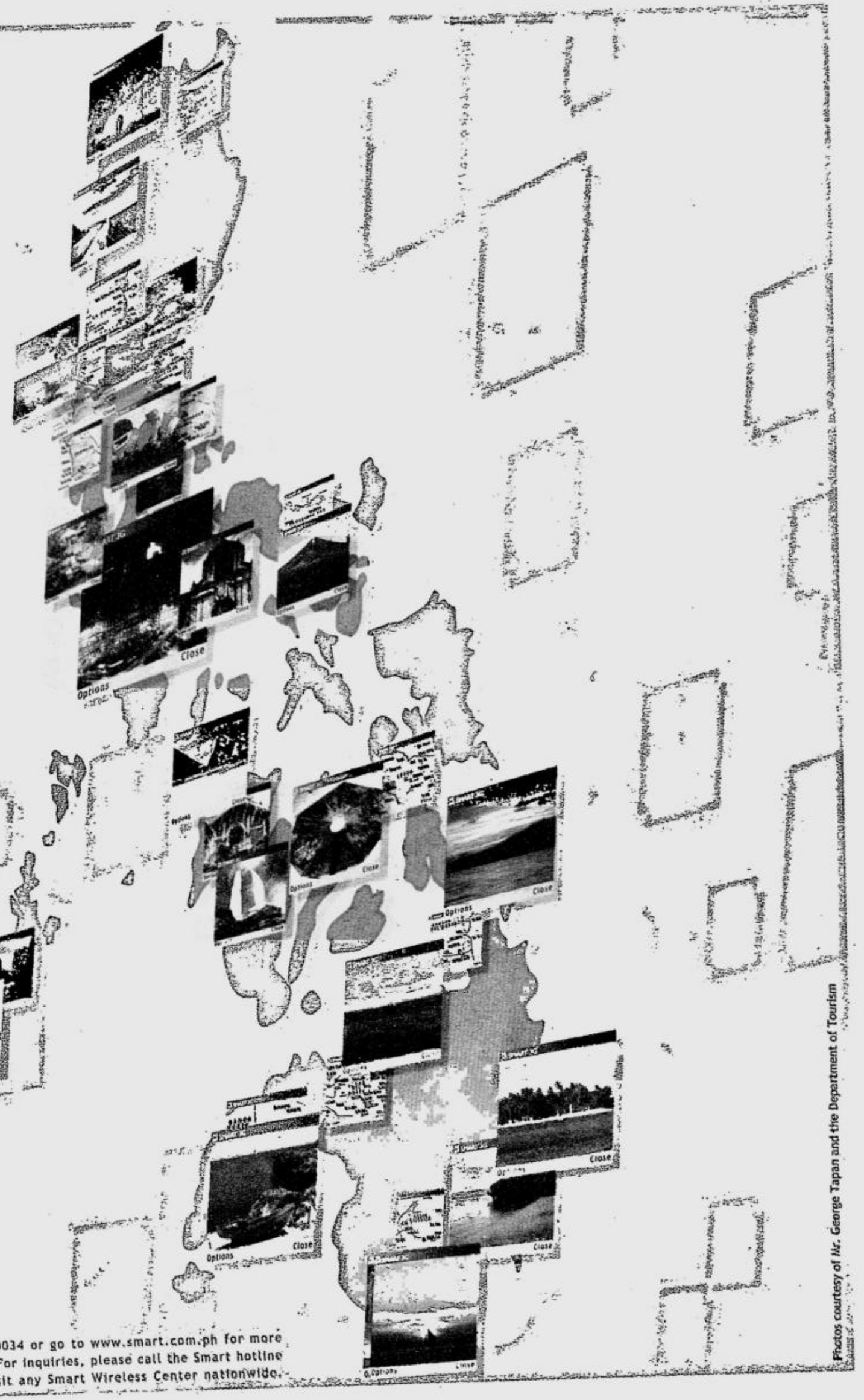

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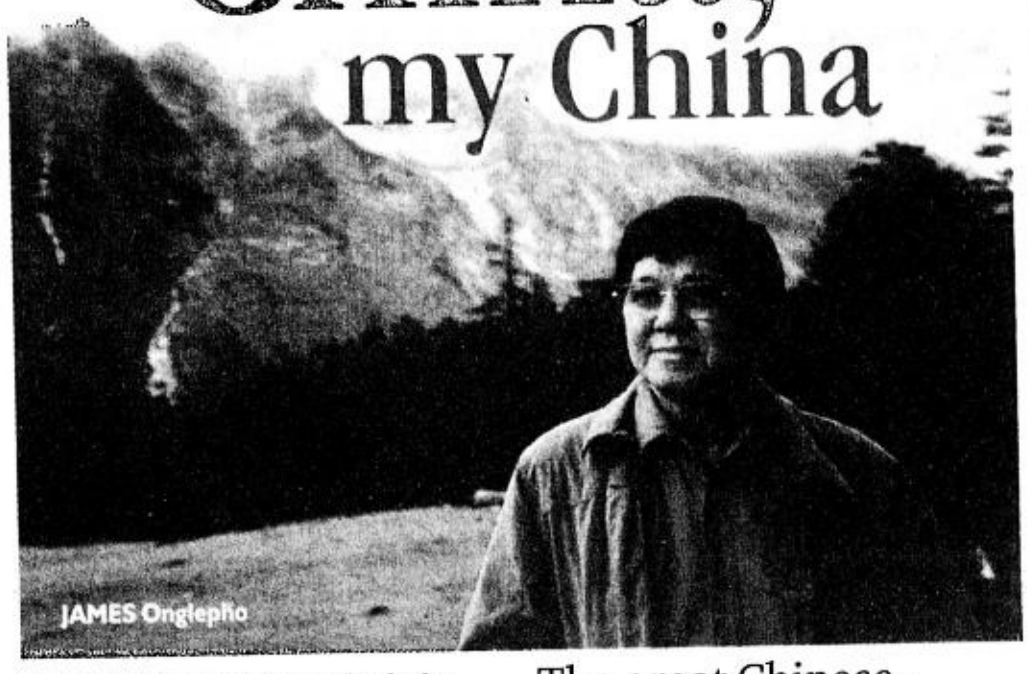
FROM HUANGSHAN TO ZHOU ZHUANG

# China, my China




**Text and art works by James Onglepho**
*Contributor*

The great Chinese-Filipino artist distills intimate feelings of longing for his native land in delicate words, lines and colors

SINCE 1989, I HAVE BEEN visiting China, and in the last 16 years, I have seen so many interesting places. All those fascinating locations have influenced my painting. In particular I have been affected by Huangshan, which I have seen twice, and Zhou Zhuang, which I have been fortunate to visit last year.

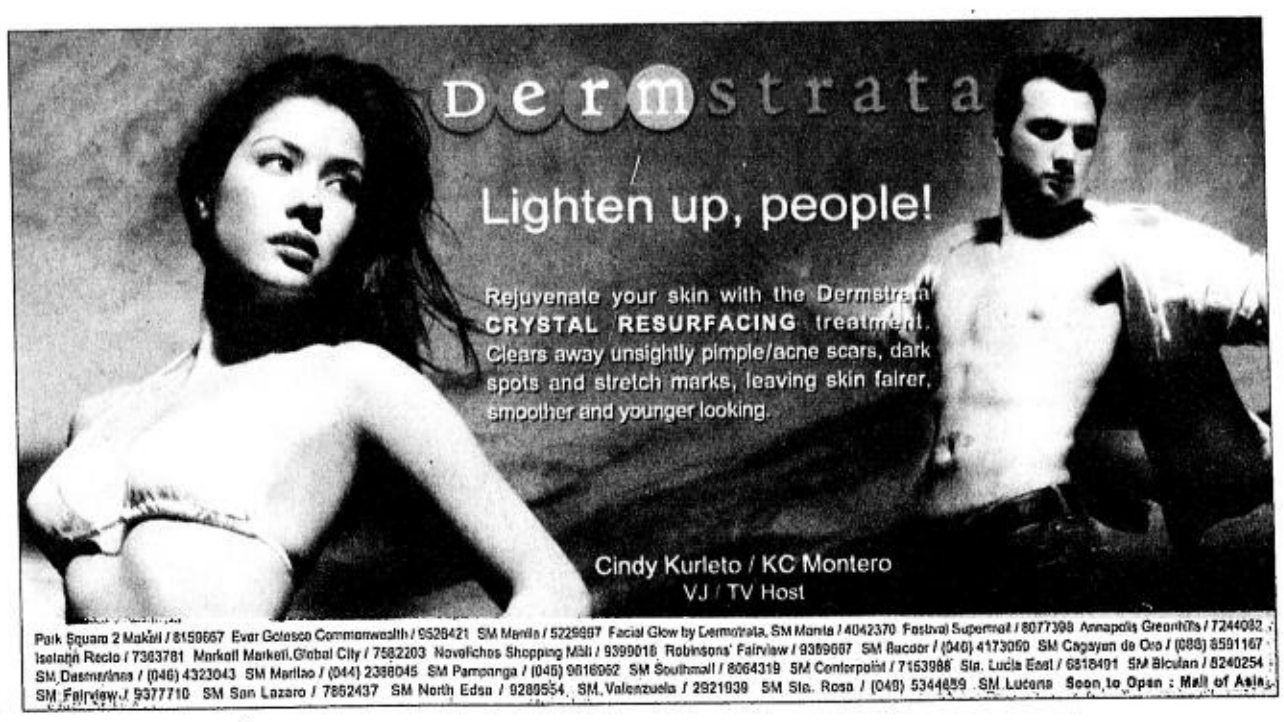
After the Second World War, I went back to Xiamen, China, in 1947, and stayed there for over a month. It took me another 42 years to go back there again in 1989, staying there four days with my sister.

I grabbed the opportunity to take the 26-hour train ride to Huangshan (also known as Yellow Mountain). The following day, I climbed the mountain to get a better view.

Huangshan, which is in the south Anhui Province, is well known as "the first fantastic mountain under the sky." Like the Great Wall, Yellow River, and Yangtzi River, Huangshan attracts many tourists to China.

Surrounded by waters shaped like clouds, Huangshan is sometimes called Yellow Sea. Further subdivided into the East Sea, the South Sea, the West Sea, and the North Sea, they seem like endless waves which dis-

CHINA/ E2



# China, my China

From page E1

appear quickly and quietly.

Huangshan is the only scenic mountain spot among China's 10 beautiful tourist spots. Its cloud seas, wonderful pines, miraculous rocks and a hot spring make up "The Four Uniques."

It has been a piece of fairyland for the past thousand years, attracting many famous personalities who never got tired seeing its magnificent views.

## Five mountains

In China, there are five famous mountains that are also of high historical interest: Taishan Mountain, Huashan Mountain, Hengshan Mountain, Sanshan Mountain, and Hangshan Mountain.

Yet Huangshan is more renowned, based on this saying: "After you return from the Five Mountains, you will not want to see any other mountain. But after you return from Huangshan, you will never want to catch even a glimpse of the Five Mountains."

"ZHOU Zhuang"

Huangshan, often called "God's favored creation," is truly a Chinese gem.

"HUANGSHAN"

From the point of view of an artist, the beauty of Huangshan is incredible. With an area covering 154 square kilometers, one can appreciate every peak, and from any angle, one can see the complete composition and the complete form. Nature's perfect arrangement and beauty is amazing.

During my first visit, I planned to go mountain climbing and stay at the top of the mountain for a few days. While at the base of the mountain, I made the necessary hotel reservations but I was not satisfied with the room I got. It did not have a private restroom even when I requested for it.

I was in such a hurry to go up to the mountain that I forgot my rubber shoes and painting materials in the hotel at the base of the mountain, so I only stayed at the top for one day, but the sight of the mountain left a very deep impression in my mind.

Seeing Huangshan for the second time, I already knew where to look and what to paint. It was a very productive trip.

I had also long wanted to see Zhou Zhuang, but earlier plans had not pushed through. In March 2005, my close friends Gilbert and Mary Young were planning to tour China and asked me to join their group. I suggested including Zhou Zhuang as part of our itinerary.

The tour began on Sept. 7 and lasted until Sept. 13. To me, Zhou Zhuang proved to be the most interesting sight we saw.

Zhou Zhuang is a small town between Shanghai and Suzhou. Aboard small boats, we saw houses and stone bridges that were built as far back as the Ming Dynasty. They are all part of what makes Zhou Zhuang unique to this day.

Our group arrived past lunchtime on Sept. 12, and was scheduled to go to Shanghai shortly, so we stayed in Zhou Zhuang for only a limited time.

Still, as the woman rowing our boat sang to us, it was like being transported into another era, back when the Ming Dynasty ruled. The atmosphere was surreal.

I promised myself I would go back to Zhou Zhuang one day and stay there a little longer.

"HUANGSHAN"

"DEVOTEES"

# *Portrait of the faithful*

By Constantino C. Tejero

MIKEL PARIAL IS ANOTHER OFFspring in the Philippine art world who's stepping farther away from the shadow of his father.

While his father Mario's genre paintings hark back to the realism of the 1950s Modernists, his own work points to the social realism of the 1980s. By the looks of their respective pieces, they're hardly related except for a similar boldness in color tonality.

A product of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, the young Parial is a member of Salingpusa, a group of mostly Antipolo-based painters whose styles and concerns could be described as neo-social realist.

The focus on social ills is again apparent in his latest exhibit "Diboto," eight pieces in acrylic on canvas, in The Big & Small Art Co. at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Set as companion pieces, these are rendered in vigorous brushwork with abrupt slashing strokes, vivid hues, bold outlines and broad highlights, perfectly capturing the psychology of the crowd and the frenzy of motion. Parial's technique has a subtle transformative effect on the viewer.

"PANALANGIN"

"MAN with Tattoo"

## Religious cruelty

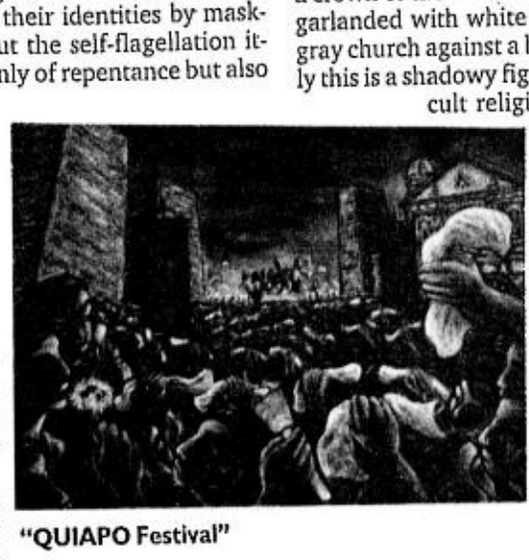
"Miyerkules Timisa" depicts a church interior during Ash Wednesday, with yellow light flooding through the arches in the background, a devout kneeling on the nave in the middle, and ashen faces marked with crosses on foreheads in the foreground. Streaks and washes of reddish brown, pale yellow and electric blue accentuate the dark scene, lending to the general gloom of Ash Wednesday the festive air of Mardi Gras.

"Panalangin" could as well be a close-up of that kneeler on the nave. Kneeling with upraised hands, the prayerful figure looks insincere, however, with that screaming shirt of neon-blue.

"Penitensya" exposes a sadomasochistic aspect of folk Catholicism. It is a back view of a penitent flogging his body into cuts and bruises, thereby abusing the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Many of the *flagelantes* are criminals and sinners who hide their identities by masking their faces. But the self-flagellation itself is an act not only of repentance but also of confessing one's sinfulness in public. This bloody act could have an effect on folk psychology, if not spirituality, as streaks of yellow and flame-red form a halo framing the figure's head crowned with thorns.

"Man with Tattoo," the front view of the previous piece, is a portrait of the typical flagellant. Here a shirtless punk with downcast face is washed in red while tattooed all over his chest is the downcast face of the Suffering Christ. The yellow square of a poster against blue wall and the green ground frame the figure, spotlighting a creature abased before his Creator.



"QUIAPO Festival"

## Religious cultist

"Devotees" and "Estampita Vendor" are charming companion pieces with real scapulars added on. The first has two old women in their Sunday best, one holding a lighted candle, apparently during a religious procession, against a background of blue and red. "Estampita Vendor" has a graying woman selling to the faithful *estampitas* of the Sacred Heart and Christ in Agony, against a red sky.

In "Prusisyon," an enrobed woman with a crown of thorns is holding a large crucifix garlanded with white flowers in front of a gray church against a blue-green sky. Clearly this is a shadowy figure from the realm of cult religion, probably an embodiment of God the Mother.

"Quiapo Festival" depicts the culmination of a religious festival. Here the throng has been rendered as no more than dots, hands waving towels, flowers, candles, mask-like faces, overshadowed by red banners and gray high-rises and beige church façade against blue, blue sky. This swelling crowd during the feast of the Black Nazarene embodies that faith that can move mountains.

While most Filipino artists when they do religious art usually showcase Christian iconography, Parial turns the spotlight to the religious practices of the people, or to the people themselves who practice their beliefs. This exhibit is a series of portraits of religious fanaticism, rapture and devotion, commercialism and superstition, penitence and fiesta.

TYLE

# The forbidden art of Jay Pacena

From page E4

floating away and flowing from his imperceptible crotch. The imploring gaze also appears to suggest a degree of shyness, albeit a rather naughty bashfulness, that coincides with a self-disgust that leads him to disgorge a waterfall of text, a kind of linguistic vomit. One is almost reminded of the Dada aphorism of yore stated by Tristan Tzara in an infamous manifesto, "Thought is made in the mouth."

## Forbidden

Speaking of mouths, the Eden motif is made complete by the repeated appearance of a forbidden fruit—in the exhibit's context a green apple—which again furthers the notion of a prohibited wholeness. Considering Pacena's process of digital reproduction, is Pacena implying that the original sin valued dearly by the religious is nothing but an illusion? Consider "A Slice of…," which features the naked torso of a woman, her head halved and blurred, arms thrown up as if in resignation, with the silhouette of an apple appearing above the pubic region, just beneath her breasts. This juxtaposition of earthy roundnesses is just as apparent in "Meeting of Souls," where the viewer is confronted with the backs of two women. While apples cluster together on the small of the back of the woman on the left, another is held elegantly by the woman on the right, her arm outstretched for the convenience of the viewer. The scene is one of roundness and contour, all arc and wondrous curve. But the slight emphasis on the buttocks brings back the concretization of distance, of fracture—the butt-crack being the most bodily and universal of fissures.

Pacena's skill and visual fluency leave one with a feeling of insufficiency, as if what he had to say wasn't quite articulated enough by the two floors of work provided by the Cubicle Art Gallery. In conveying fractures and desires, he has also left his viewers both fractured and desirous to see more of his work. In other words, *bitin*.

One can only hope Pacena can come up with a quick follow-up to inBetween (one that is more geographically accessible to viewers and enthusiasts), and that other young artists can similarly take advantage of the new media and technology made available to them by the changing times. After all, just as Pacena puts it, "Life evolves, and so does Art."

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"BLANK"

DIGITAL DISTORTIONS

# The forbidden art of Jay Pacena

"DEATH'S Kiss"

By Angelo V. Suárez
*Contributor*

AT 25, VISUAL ARTIST JAIME JESUS "Jay" C. Pacena II seems to have had it made. Not only is he creative director for print and video for renegade production corporation MixMedia, but also a much idolized instructor and youngish pseudo-Mohawked mentor-figure at the College of Fine Arts and Design of University of Santo Tomas. Not to mention he has that ticket-to-coolness title of "music video director" for a number of rising pop/rock acts in today's music scene. All those, and his experiments with art, chemicals, and technology have not only won him second place in the mixed media category of the 58th Art Association of the Philippines Annual Competition for his work "watch me," but also made possible his recently concluded debut solo exhibition, "inBetween: Digital Art Distortions on Canvas," at the Cubicle Art Gallery, Pasig.

## Displaced

One cannot help avoid feeling displaced when standing in the midst of Pacena's works. Is it the sinister splashes of red that evoke anger, the dominant brown that exudes mortality, transience? But displacement isn't necessarily a bad thing: One who isn't on any of the opposing sides of any dichotomy either simultaneously experiences both or experiences neither, clearing a kind of third space for a more intimate, more personal understanding of what is at hand.

The title itself had set the tone for what each viewer was about to go through—a virtual weightlessness compounded by the art form Pacena terms as "digital art distortion."

There is still much talk regarding the legitimacy, if not the existence, of digital art. In a field where originality is a highly prized virtue, how can one get hold of an authentic first copy—an original—of something that can be stored digitally in a computer, something that can be mechanically reproduced—reprinted—with so much ease?

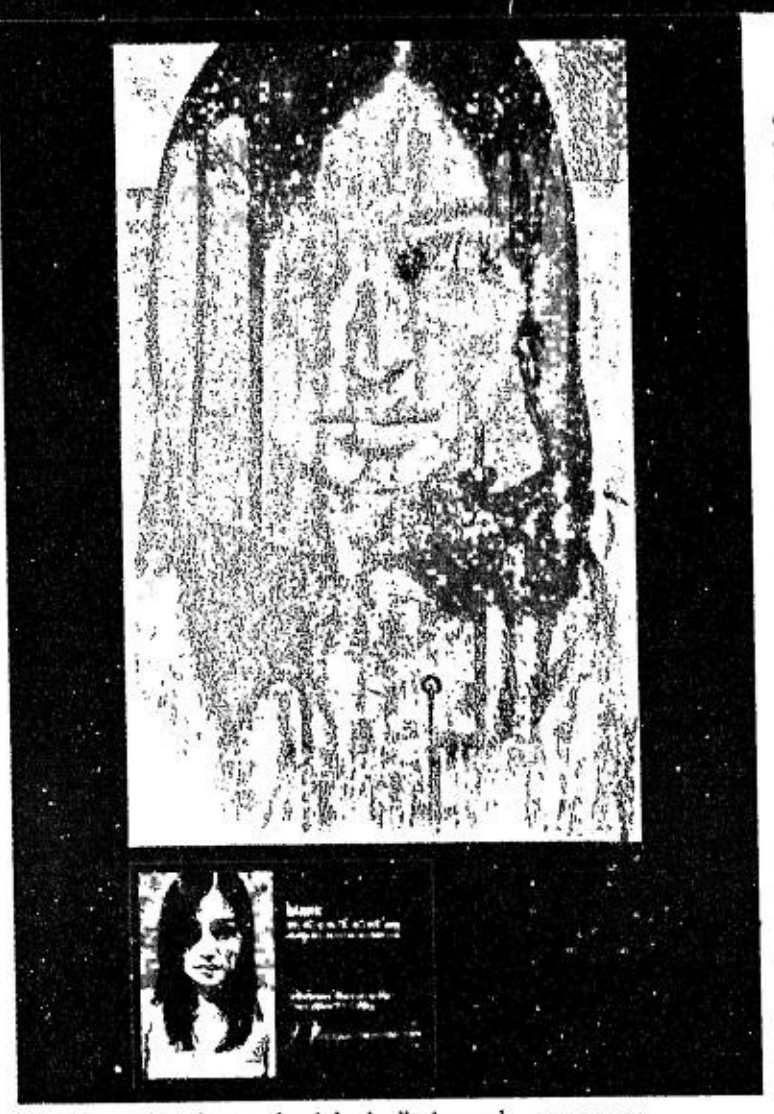
Pacena, to achieve his desired midstate, manually and chemically "distorts" the printouts of his digitally manipulated images. According to him, he would "experiment on the spontaneous reactions of certain solutions to the ink of the printed digital artwork. It was in this process where more colors, geometric forms and free-flowing lines were also added." This negotiation between the mechanical and the human serves as Pacena's ticket to that world of in-between-ness his exhibit unashamedly points us to—a world of junctions and fractures.

## Back to Genesis

One such object in this world is his piece "Blank," which, as if in an effort to bring us back to Genesis, features two separate, juxtaposed canvases—a woman in glum repose and a man whose opened mouth seems to let out an angry scream. Their eyes are darkened out, lending the figures a mysterious anonymity that can allow the viewer to either relate to or be mystified by them. Multiple rifts come into play therefore: Not only is the man separated from the woman, but an enormous fracture also exists between them and the viewer.

The latter distance is furthered by "Death's Kiss: Broken Vow" where finally both man and woman are on a single canvas, her hand on his cheek as he gazes into her face intently, his short, dark beard transforming into minute tongues of black flame. Even in embrace she distances herself from him by gazing outward and at the viewer, as if for a second taking note that they are being watched—as if Adam and Eve before their voyeuristic God. Her momentary outward stare—forever transfixed in time—excites so much intrigue that when their lips finally touch in "Rebirth: The Kiss," a feeling of guilt competes with delight within the viewer—almost like his/her mortal eyes do not deserve to behold a scene with such sanctity—so much so that the words inscribed on canvas, "Hold me / Touch me / Come closer I want to feel your lips," might no longer come from either of the figures but from the viewer him/herself. This instantly becomes an expression of the most delicate of desires: not only is there a longing for union, but also for the witnessing of this union.

The same gentle repose is maintained by the woman in "Quiet Sanctuary," where even without



"BLANK"

eyes she exudes a beauty that is both alluring and menacing, chin up and head slightly tilted to the right, hands clutching at clothing. Hers is a portrait of the wildest of serenities; any weak-willed viewer might catch himself wondering who the model is behind this figure, whether she is as mysterious in person as she is on canvas, whether this character—fictional or not—is free on Saturday night for coffee and a movie.

Solitude is also palpable in "Saving Grace" where she sits placidly on a chair, her avoiding eyes gazing downward and surrounded by a frenzy of unintelligible text. But besides the madness quite literally inscribed on her face and a portion of her neck, one can tell that there is something else here that suggests more than mere silence or stillness or repose: might the words "cursed & blessed" and "i don't dream anymore" written on her lap connote that she yearns for something that is out of reach, that she isn't simply in solitude but has been forced into solitude?

## 'The Virgin'

A few answers are curtly—if at all—supplied once the viewer gets a glimpse of the woman bowed and weeping in "The Virgin." While from her eyes cascade letters and numbers like black tears, there appear the sentences "I dream of I scream" on her forehead and "Stop asking when" on her lap. These possibly convey her desire to achieve a more total form of contact, one that doesn't fleet or isn't illusory and yet physical, and as her hands fold over each other over her thighs she happens to be crying both language and lust. Is there any difference between the two after all? What are signifier and signified if not two bodies that look for but never find wholeness?

It comes as no surprise then that we find her exasperated in "Mad Love," her fists clenched and her face distortedly stretched, with the eyes blacked out and dripping as if twin streams of tears of ink. Beneath her navel are the bold letters "ROT," making one suspect that disappointment may have made her desire begin to wither away. Her mouth is also open, agape, as if in unintended play on—if not in failed anticipation of—that similarly spelled word that signifies sacrificial love, agapé.

But what of her beloved? The man in "Idle Hands" sits on what seems to be a wooden chair, his hands fading away with his thighs and legs to complete invisibility—a broken Adam from whose face runs the declaration: "I make myself sick." The impossibility of union with the Other leads him to auto-erotic desperation, to asking the viewer, "Tie me so I would not touch myself," the words

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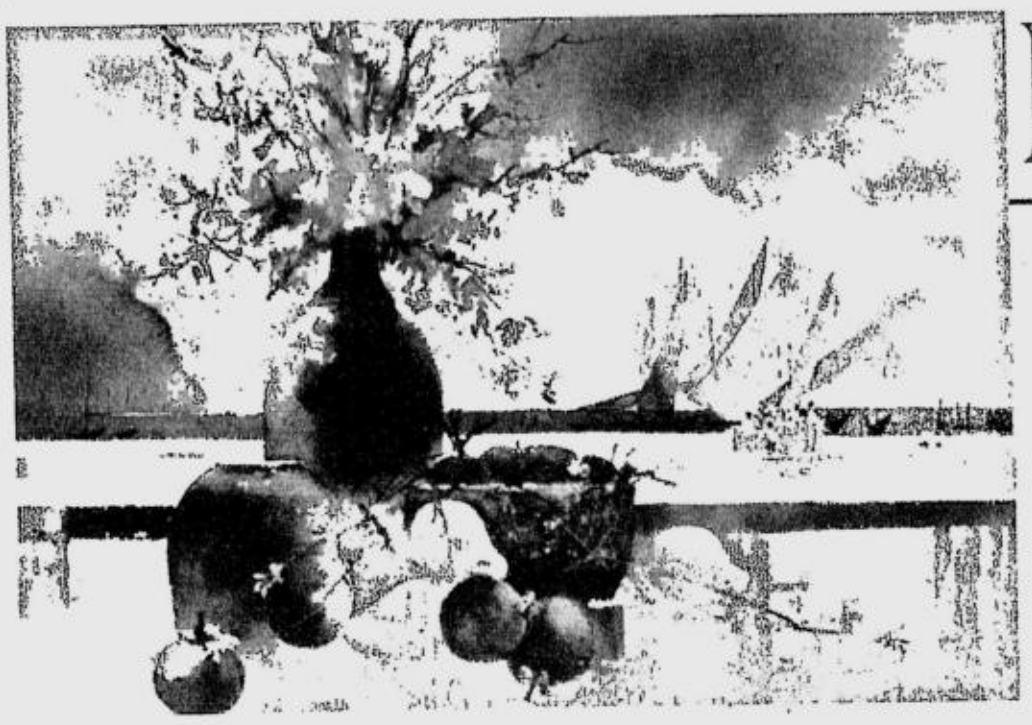

"STILL Life by the Sea"

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# The transparent art of Edgar Doctor

STORY ON PAGE F3

The watercolor master shows a new facet of his art

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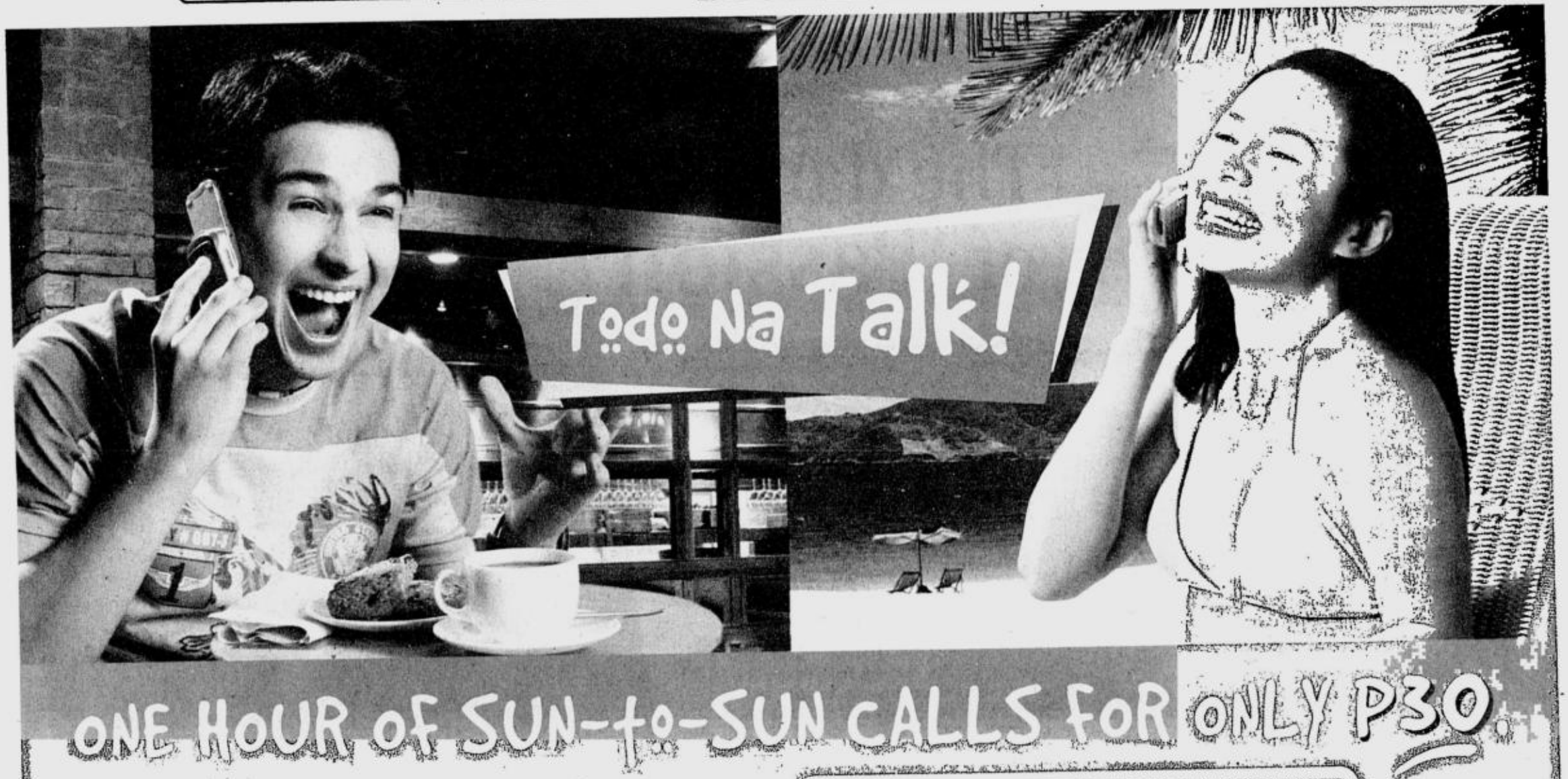


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## Book club tackles 'Lolita, 'Pride and Prejudice'

THE POWER BOOK CLUB IS HOLDING DISCUSSIONS ON " LOLITA" by Vladimir Nabokov and "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen.

"Lolita" is Nabokov's most famous and controversial novel. It is about the aging Humbert Humbert and his obsessive, devouring and doomed passion for the "nymphet" Dolores Haze. It is a tale of a hypercivilized European floundering in the cheerful barbarism of postwar America. And most of all, it is a meditation on love—as outrage and hallucination, madness and transformation. The discussion is on April 25, at Greenbelt.

Set in a remote Hertfordshire village, "Pride and Prejudice" is the tale of a country squire of modest means who must marry off five vivacious daughters. At the heart of this all-consuming enterprise are the headstrong second daughter Elizabeth Bennet and her aristocratic suitor Fitzwilliam Darcy—two dominant personalities whose pride must be humbled and prejudice dissolved before the novel can come to its splendid conclusion.

A magnum opus of wit and sparkling dialogue, its exploration of manner and motives presents a sumptuously detailed picture of 18th-century society. This renowned novel is a memorable story on the power of reason, and above all, the strange dynamics of human relationships and emotions. Discussion is on April 26, 6:30 p.m., at SM Megamall.

Powerbooks has branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334, 524-3448).

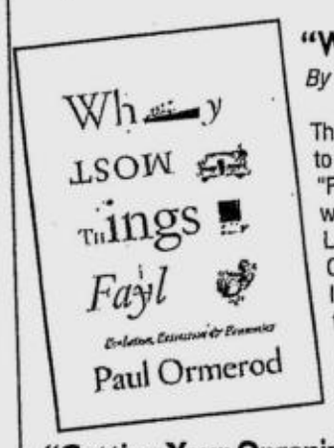
### "Working with You Is Killing Me"

*By Katherine Crowley and Kathi Elster*

Are you sick and tired of officemates who waste your time with their incompetence, a boss who drives you crazy with his impossible demands, or an employee who always tests your patience and authority? Then you need to free yourself from this emotional trap that you call your workplace. Let Katherine Crowley and Kathi Elster help you empower yourself and break free from workplace troubles. Take the different eye-opening quizzes and read real-life examples to guide you to a stress-free day at the office.

### "Why Most Things Fail"

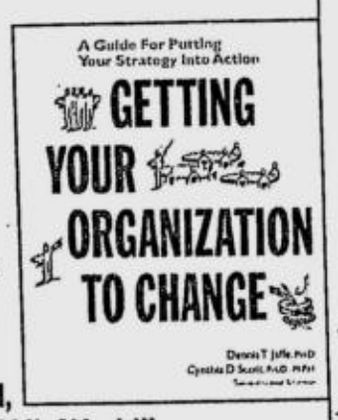
*By Paul Ormerod*




The truth that most people would not want to acknowledge can be read in this book. "Failure is all around us" and even the world's largest company in 1912, Central Leather, failed and was liquidated in 1952. Ormerod explains that companies behave like living organisms: if they do not evolve, they die. What you will read in this book can be related not only with business but also with the government and it enlightens us on what can be done about it.

### "Getting Your Organization to Change"

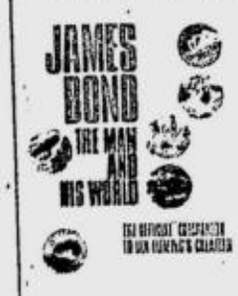
*By Dennis T. Jaffe, Ph.D and Cynthia D. Scott, Ph.D, MPH*




Change is an inevitable force which an organization can either embrace or ignore. "Getting Your Organization to Change" provides a variety of strategies for different kinds of organizations to make change work for them.

### "James Bond, The Man and His World"

*By Henry Chancellor*




Everyone is a Bond fan, but how many of us truly know Ian Fleming's brilliant original creation? This is the irresistible and definitive illustrated passport to his life and times.

### "The Osama Bin Laden I Know"

*By Peter L. Bergen*

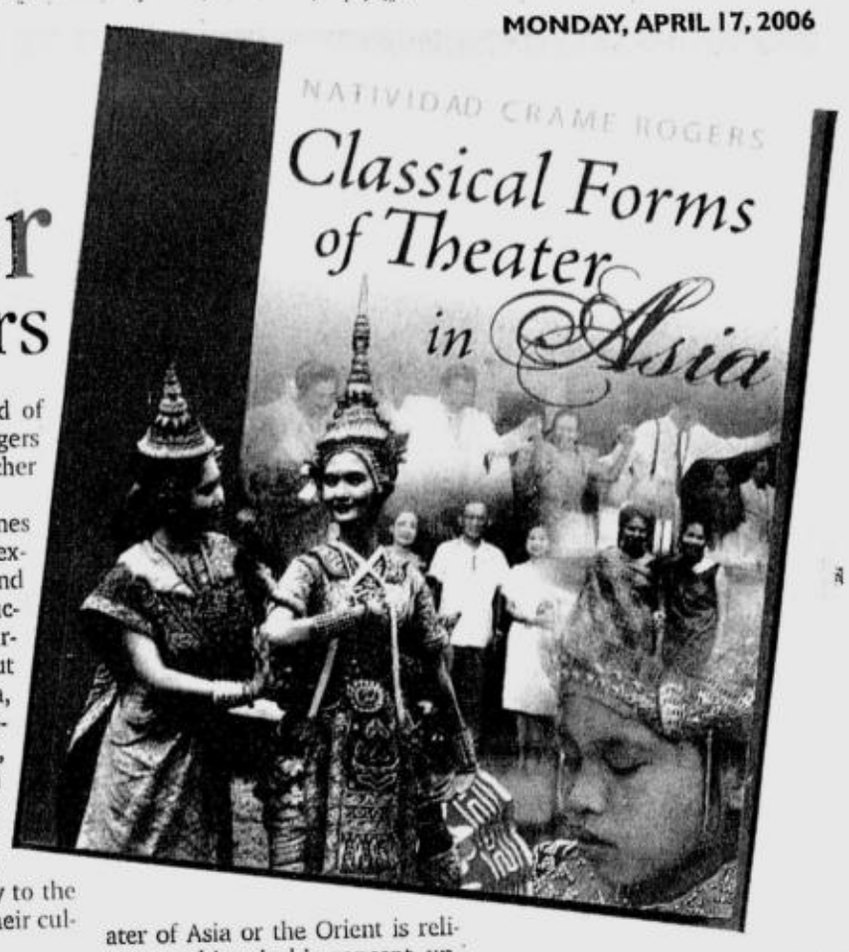
Bergen uncovers the persona that is Osama Bin Laden. He interviewed more than 50 people who have known Bin Laden, from the members of his family to his high-school English teacher to former members of the al-Qaida. From Bergen's first meeting with a soft-spoken cleric, he exposes how Bin Laden gained supporters and became the commander of the world's most terrifying terrorists known to mankind.

### "Memories of John Lennon"

*Edited and introduced by Yoko Ono*

Visionary and friend, musician and performer, husband and father, activist and jokester. See the life of John Lennon in his own words, poems, drawings, photos and from the accounts of his colleagues, friends and, most especially, his wife, Yoko Ono.

# The undying Asian theater of Naty Crame Rogers




**"Classical Forms of Theater in Asia"**
*By Natividad Crame Rogers*
*UST Publishing House, 2005*
*216 pages, illus.*

**By José Victor Z. Torres**
*Contributor*

WHEN A READER of this book asks why the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House would publish a research work that is over 40 years old, the answer is:

Because culture is timeless.

Because heritage lasts.

This is what "Classical Forms of Theater in Asia" is all about—the culture of the performing arts in the different countries of the Southeast Asian region. The book may be dated in some aspects, but one cannot dismiss the fact that it is rich in information on Asian theater.

Rogers' book shows the pageant of the dramatic traditions of Asian nations. Each theatrical aspect and uncommon characteristic is fully described in each chapter. Each part is fully illustrated, a must for a study of an art form that relies on the visual in order to be appreciated.

A luminary in the world of Philippine drama, Rogers shows her mettle as a teacher of drama in this book.

"Theater in Asia" combines her research and personal experiences after observing and working with actors, production people, and even cultural officials in learning about the types of theater in India, Ceylon, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Indonesia, Japan, China, Korean and the Philippines. (It is amazing to note how government officials in other countries give top priority to the promotion and study of their culture and arts.)

The book is a documentary of the state of classical theater in Asia from 1959-1965. Rogers writes that "the original manuscript was turned over to the defunct Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (Seato) Library in 1965 and is no longer available to the theater scholar."

Thus, this work's importance in contributing to the continuing study of theater in the past and today. This is because drama, as Roger notes, is a key to Filipino culture.

### Unique

In her introduction, Rogers gives us a general description of Asian theater: "The classical theater of Asia or the Orient is religious or historical in concept, unrealistic in form and in execution combines the elements of music, dance, song and poetry into a dramatic synthesis in which these elements are absolutely interrelated and dependent on each other."

But each type of classical theater in the region has its own uniqueness. And this is what Rogers shows in her work.

One chapter that interested this reviewer is on Philippine drama. In this age of hi-tech media, it is a bit nostalgic to see how the urban folk continued the drama tradition in their villages and towns. The reviewer wonders (since this book was written four decades ago with a few updates) if much of these play traditions still exist.

The only weakness this writer can see in the book is that some facts are dated, especially in the chapter on Philippine theater. But this can be remedied through an updated edition.

There has been a constant revival of Asian theater forms in different countries with the ever-growing awareness of many cultural workers and teachers. Political faces may change but not the face of traditions and culture.

"Classical Forms of Theater in Asia" is a scholarly work for these times. It is unique because it is only one of a few works that deal with the art of drama, especially of Philippine theater.

It also clearly shows the feature of culture that many today miss—that culture is with the people, and that the people's art is timeless.

# The darkness and light of 'Passion'

**"Siglo: Passion"**
*Edited by Dean Francis Alfar and Vincent Simbulan*
*Kestrel IMC, Nautilus Comics and Quest Ventures*
*QC, 2005, 200 pages*

**By Ruel S. De Vera**

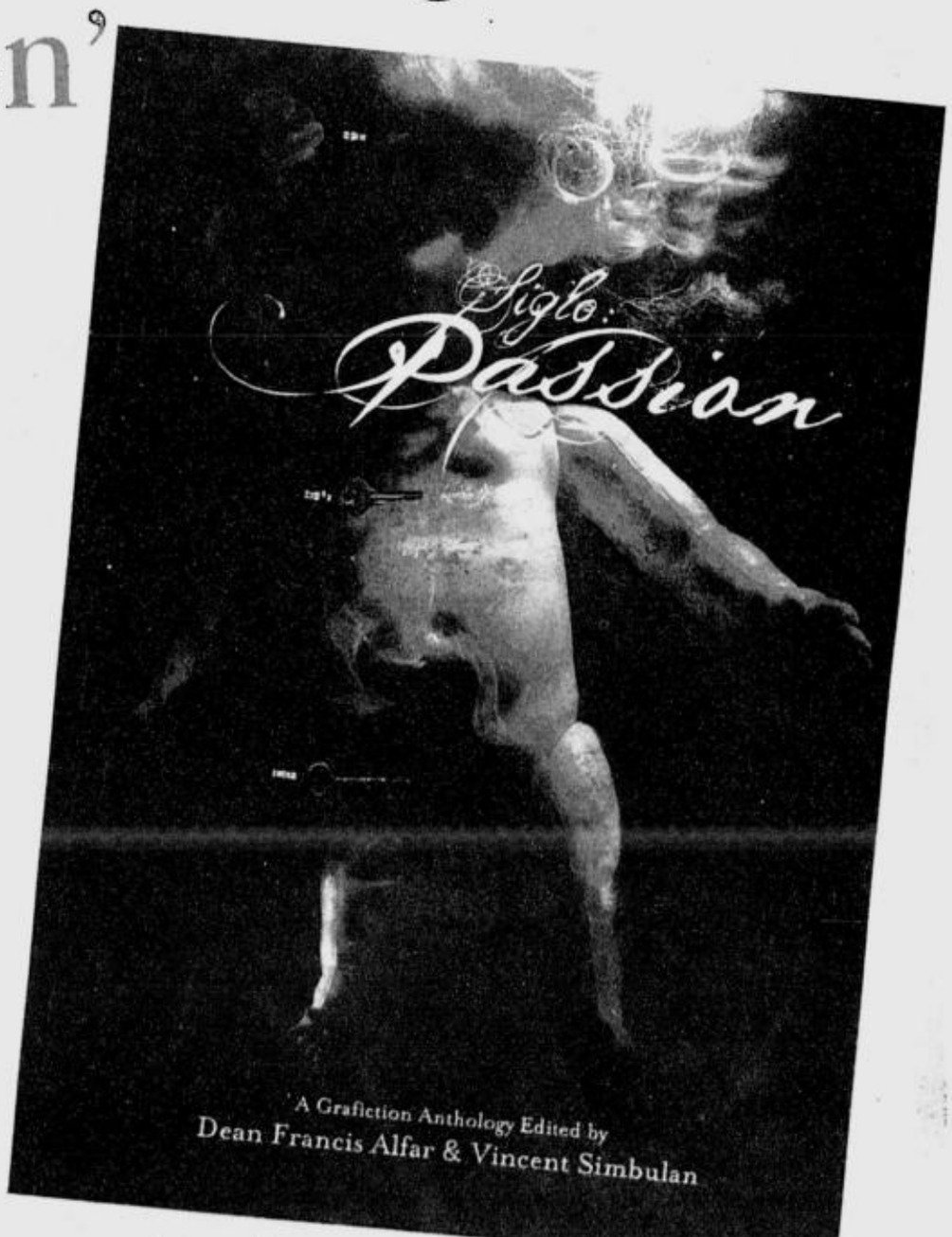
AMBITION IS THE MIGHTY scaffolding of literary and visual feat: the greater the height to be scaled, the more substantial the risk, the more abundant the possible reward. And yet that attempt can be breathtaking by itself, a challenge to the void, a call to arms against the mundane.

This is the gap being minded—and crossed—by the comic-book anthology "Siglo." Edited by comic-book veterans Dean Francis Alfar and Vincent Simbulan, the daring, award-winning "Siglo: Freedom" gathered short pieces of what Alfar calls "grafiction" that unfurled varied artistic styles and dissected diverse aspects of the Filipino's experience of liberty.

Two years later, Alfar and Simbulan have spawned the next incarnation in the "Siglo" saga, "Siglo: Passion," an even worthier adventurer in the graphical and literary continuity that is Filipino comic books. The big idea is, as the editors write in the introduction, to expose "the boundless enthusiasm that drives us to be both baneful and divine; to aspire to exalted heights or sink to ignoble depths."

"Siglo: Passion's" cast is prodigious, an assembly of international stars, local stalwarts, award-winners, up-and-coming kid wonders.

Aside from the two editors, there's Nikki Go-Alfar, Lan Medina, Reno Maniquis, Edgar Tadeo, Hiyas de Guzman, Vicente Groyon, Honoel Ibardolaza, Paolo Manalo, Andrew Drilon, Carlo Vergara, Jason Banico, Marco Dimaano, Quark Henares, Antonio Abad, Maan Asuncion, Gerry Alanguilan, Jaime Bautista, Michelle Soneja, Cyan Abad-Jugo, Luis Katigbak, Jonas Diego, Joel Chua, Ariel Atienza, Jeremy Arambulo, Angelo Suárez, Rafael Kayanan, Leinil Francis Yu, José Illenberger, Jac Ting Lim, Camille Portugal, Oliver Pulumbarit, Wilson Tortosa and Ma. Camille Francisco.




The 'Siglo' series continues the Filipino exploration of the graphic fiction genre

### Primary arsenal

Twelve stories array themselves in parade as "Passion's" primary arsenal, each tackling a different decade and location. As always, the stories intend to show off the unique attributes of the writers and artists. "Passion" bookends the stories with Suarez's illustrated poems and a sensational cover by Illenberger, all in all a gorgeous package.

Solid work abounds from all around. There is a dark, dark undercurrent in "Passion" as the storytelling here is quite mature and very sophisticated. Manalo's tale, combined with Drilon's graphic gambits, generates a creepy vibe that is taken even further by Vergara's spooky, meaningful anti-romance. Alanguilan's ghost story is harrowing in its stillness.

Ibardolaza's deceptively bucolic pattern unhinges, because of how it hides and then unleashes the truth in Groyon's story. Go-Alfar's story uses the artists' strengths to craft a lushly rendered journey to unexpected and bittersweet redemption. On the other tangent, Simbulan and Atienza's cozy piece makes wise use of a recipe passed down through the generations.

The book's most hypnotic, most arresting piece is "Manila 2019." In Katigbak's reality-bending exploration through what amounts as romance and obsession at an age where the soul hides behind the oh-so-aptly chosen avatar.

How can you not get into a story that has an oversized guinea pig named Briggs walking around in a dystopian Philippines? It's a well-written parallel to what's happening among the whiz kids of today and what may happen still.

### Visual stylings

Just as "Freedom" introduced to a wider audience Or and Drilon, talents who have since established themselves, "Passion" lets readers discover the pleasures of De Guzman's and Arambulo's visual stylings. Just as the first "Siglo" was a black-and-white project, "Siglo: Passion" equips itself for the next mission. While "Freedoom" deployed some of these same talents in black-and-white, "Passion" features full-color coated pages for every story; there are 12 stories instead of the predecessor's 10. Most importantly, "Passion" continues its permutation of "Siglo"'s purpose as a test bed for grafiction's possibilities in telling the Filipino story.

There are hints of whimsy and compassion, but mostly the unimpeachable inertia of love, all whipped together in a complex comic book bouquet. It's not all melodrama, manga and Manila.

In that sense, "Passion" is very much the more serious older brother of the earlier "Freedom," fulfilling the promise of the "Siglo" evolution, and, as always, setting the bar higher for whatever comes next in the "Siglo" series.

This lovingly produced, high-concept anthology deserves all the superlatives it will snare, for "Siglo: Passion" is an irresistibly dark vision of all that a Filipino comic book can be, when imbued with the right amount of emotion and devotion.

*Available from all Comic Quest and Fully Booked branches.*

# The transparent art of Edgar Doctor

"SANIBEL, Fl #3"

By Lito B. Zulueta

EDGAR DOCTOR ALWAYS GETS HIGH points for the prodigious output and the consistent quality of his art. The art is diverse, material-wise, and almost always daunting: watercolor, metal and wood sculpture, oil and acrylic, print. He excels in all but the modest man that he is, he has remained extremely low-key and self-effacing, Zen-like in his composure and totally confident in his art, without making a fanfare of it, of course.

The confidence is shown in his continuous explorations of aquarelle as a most difficult medium of expression. Let there be no gainsaying the challenges of the medium: painting with aquarelle is like taking a grip of water and yielding its capacity to wet and shower on paper. It's a contest against water's natural inclination toward escape and evaporation. It's an art of condensation.

In his works, Doctor is a master of washes and highlights. The latter are the unstained areas in the composition that provide value and accent. Since water has the capacity for an opaque reflection of light—aquarelle is the first and natural medium of impressionism, if there was one—the highlights are really "reserve lights," providing consistency to the medium as well as imbuing the viewer a feeling of lightness, of plumbing into the surface. Highlights provide the ripple effect of watercolor, which is basically surface art.

The aesthetics of veneer is complemented by Doctor's choice of subjects—fishermen in the act of netting their catch, still life of fruits on a table and landscape of bamboo shrubbery. The veneer is provided by the genre predictability, which is contrasted by the use of watercolor through colors and lines that are hallmarks of skill, restraint and refined feeling.

"OLD Town"

## Urbanscapes

But there's more.

In his 27th solo show, "Travelscapes," which opens on Thursday at the Autohouse BMW in Libis, Quezon City, Doctor exhibits urbanscapes that provide a dramatic counterpoint to his usual genre works.

One gasps at "Downtown, Manila" (22" x 29.75", watercolor on arches), in which the landscape, painted in strong colors, seem to evaporate to the blue-washed sky above, the washes and highlights skillfully rendered in contrapuntal verticals and horizontals. The impact is stirring as well as ethereal, the cold city rendered in fluid warmth.

In "Old Town," the same urbanscape is rendered in nostalgic colors, with tendencies toward browns and sepia, with redolent hints of decay and loss, the poignant feeling of passage somehow alleviated by the immovable blue sky above, rising fortress-like, promising solidity and permanence.

Then there's the conceit of "Waterfalls," an abstract that shows Doctor's self-deprecation and stoic humor. Rendered in strong, almost metallic colors, the work seems to wink at so much abstract art of late (in oil, acrylic and mixed media) that approximates the clangor and corrosion of industries. Against this depletion and rust, Doctor seems to say, "Take a dive into my waterfalls!"

But beware of Doctor's dare. The work is mere water, mere surface. And one should remember what they say about watercolor—it washes off.

Doctor's is the art of the transparent. It's an art that cleanses as well as stings; it's razor-sharp and quick-witted.

*Edgar Doctor's "Travelscapes" opens at 7 p.m. on April 20 at the Autohaus BMW Showroom in Libis, Quezon City. The exhibit runs until the 21st. Call 7170037, 6380734.*

"COASTAL Road"

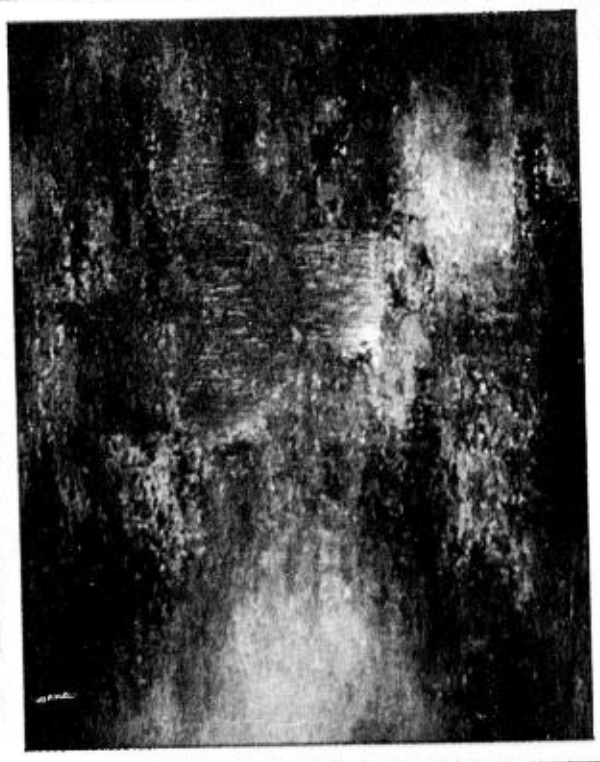
EDGAR Doctor

## Laya-Vecin's new works

ABSTRACT ARTIST NETTIE Laya-Vecin is holding her maiden solo art exhibit, "Prayer" on April 24, 6:30 p.m., at the Gallerie Astra located at the LRI Building, Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo) in Makati.

Vecin is known for her big canvasses, paintings that are deeply expressive and heavily textured. She has had works commissioned by private collectors through the years. One of the paintings from her well-received Mars series was featured in the 2005 edition of the Art Collector's Guidebook of the Philippines by Manuel Duldulao.

The exhibit features the four series of paintings that Vecin has been working on, entitled Abstraction, Mars, Prayers and Flight.



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Citibank now makes winning a million pesos a breeze to its valued cardholders as it launches *Citibank Match & Win*, a new promotion that gives Citibank credit cardholders a chance to win instant cash prizes of up to a million pesos with every shopping transaction worth at least P1,000.

Following the success of its recent promotion where it gave away millions of Reward Points to customers, the country's largest credit card issuer continues to make shopping a rewarding experience with its latest campaign that guarantees more chances to win and more cash prizes to Citibank credit cardholders.

"Match & Win is an exciting promotion that gives cardholders the thrill of determining as soon as they make a purchase if they won. Our intention is to engage the customer every time they charge to their Citibank credit card - and we hope Match & Win will be as successful as, if not more than, our previous customer campaigns," related Michellina Triwardhany, Citibank's Cards Business Director.

Match & Win is open to all Citibank principal and supplementary cardholders of Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell Citibank MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa, Mercury Drug Citibank Visa, Citibank Clear Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Cash Back card and Citibank Visa Platinum.

All you have to do is shop from April 17 to July 31, 2006 and charge at least P1,000 to your Citibank credit card. With every purchase you make, this earns you a sale slip with a unique transaction approval code. Just match the last 3 to 6 digits of your Citibank credit card with the transaction approval code and see if you have a match. Matching numbers could instantly win you P1,000,000 (if last 6 digits match), P10,000 (5 digits), P1,000 (4 digits), and P100 (3 digits).

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Dine at TGI Friday's, Italianni's, Fish & Co. or Outback Steakhouse and let your Citibank credit card delight you with 25% savings on palate-pleasing combo meals available until June 15, 2006.

Want to go American? Bring the gang over at TGI Friday's to savor the Feast for Four Package: Caesar Salad, Riblets, Cajun Fingers and Liempo Platter. Or you can avail of the romantic dinner for two, with your choice of 1 appetizer (Buffalo Wings for 1, Friday's Mushroom, Fried Calamari, Broccoli Cheese Soup or Soup of the Day) and 2 entrées (BBQ Chicken Salad, Spicy New Orleans Pasta, Chicken Fingers, 1 pc. Pacific Pork Chop, Chicken and Liempo Combo or half a slab of Jack Daniel's Glazed Ribs).

If Italian is your thing, troop to Italianni's and try the Feast for Four Combo with your friends, which includes Caesar Salad, Margherita Pizza, Classic Carbonara, Pork Chop Au Poivre and Spaghetti with Meatballs. There's also the meal for two with your choice of 1 appetizer, pasta and entrée. For appetizer, you can pick from Prosciutto Provolone Crostinis, Mussels Lombardi, and Sicilian Salad. Pasta choices, meanwhile, are Linguini Vongole, Penne Arrabiato and Angel Hair Promodoro. Entrée selections include Herbed Roasted Chicken and Grilled Pepperfish.

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Aussie meals at Outback Steakhouse are also ready for your palate's pleasure. For groups of four, there's Caesar Salad, Flat Iron Steak and your choice of 2 side dishes: Aussie Chips, Fresh Vegetable Medley and Baked Rice.

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To know more about dining discounts, other CWP exclusive offers and the Match & Win promotion, log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

ADVT.